



# LET US DREAM

## Annual Community Conference

Oct. 21, 2021  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



*Hosted By:*





# LET US DREAM

## Annual Community Conference

The Let Us Dream community conference was first held in 2017 at Louisiana Tech University. The conference provides a forum for professionals, scholars, researchers, and college and university students to share experiences, challenges, and achievements in their respective efforts towards community improvement.

Volunteers from the local community can be a part of the conference and engage in fruitful dialogues with visionaries through the conference.

**The 2021 conference will be held online from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 21.**

# SCHEDULE

**10 am** – Conference Opening

**10:15 am** – Opening Keynote  
– Dr. Davy Norris

**10:30 am** – Unsung Heroes Awards

**10:45 am** – Education Panel

**11:45 am** – Short Break

**11:55 am** – Musical Interlude

**12:00 pm** – Health Panel

**1 pm** – Short Break

**1:10 pm** – Unsung Heroes Awards

**1:20 pm** – Social Panel

**2:20 pm** – Short Break

**2:30 pm** – Student Session

**3:30 pm** – Unsung Heroes Awards

**3:40 pm** – Conference Closing

**3:45 pm** – Closing Keynote

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## Dave N. Norris Jr., PhD

Dr. Dave Norris is the Chief Innovation Officer at Louisiana Tech University. He leads the university's innovation and economic development missions. He has served on several national and statewide boards including the North Louisiana Economic Partnership, the Louisiana Business Incubator Association, the

LONI Economic Development Advisory Board, the Louisiana Tax Reform Task Force, the Louisiana Higher Education Task Force, the Louisiana Occupational Forecasting Conference, and the University Economic Development Association. Norris is past President of the Board of the Greater Ouachita Coalition for AIDS Resources and Education and serves on the board of the Living Well Healthcare Foundation.

Norris was previously a member of the economics faculty at Northeastern University in Boston (2000-02), served in the Office of the Chief Economist at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1998-2000), and served as the Independent Economist for the State of Louisiana (2002-05). He has also been a visiting faculty member at the University of the Mediterranean at Reggio Calabria, Italy (2013-17). He received his undergraduate degree from Louisiana Tech University and his master's and PhD in Economics from the University of Texas at Austin.

He is married to Dr. Amanda Norris, a psychologist, and they have 4-year old twins — Claire and Jack. In his spare time — which he works hard to maximize — he enjoys climbing mountains, floating rivers, snow skiing, basketball, tennis, good whiskey, and mostly hanging with his twins.



## Eldonta Osborne

Eldonta Osborne is Chief Executive Officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Louisiana.

He began his career with the Boys & Girls Club in 2001 at the former Boys & Girls Clubs of North Central Louisiana, serving children in Lincoln Parish. Through his leadership, he led the merging of the Northeast and North Central organizations in 2019. Osborne has led an increase in the organization's annual budget from \$180,000 in 2002 to \$1.5 million currently.

Osborne received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Louisiana Tech University, where he was also a standout linebacker on the football team. After spending time in the National Football League and Canadian Football League, he returned to Louisiana to begin his coaching career. He spent two years at his alma mater, Jonesboro Hodge High School, and three years at Ruston Junior High School. After receiving his master's degree in the Art of Teaching from Grambling State University, he moved into administration, serving three years as assistant principal at Ruston Junior High.

In 2019, Osborne was named the recipient of the National Herman Prescott Award. Since joining the Boys & Girls Club movement in 2001, Osborne has completed the Mastery Leadership Program Level 3 and is also a member of the BGCA's Inaugural Harvard School of Executive Leadership Class. He was invited and completed the Disney Institute Program: Approach to Business Excellence and most recently completed the University of Georgia's Sherpa Executive Coaching Certification Program.

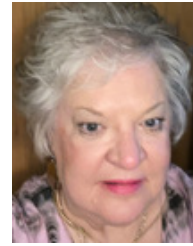
Osborne is also member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and serves on the local board of Habitat for Humanity. However, his proudest accomplishment is his family. He and his wife Rachel have been married for 32 years and have four children and six grandchildren.

# EDUCATIONAL PANEL



## Carrice Cummins

Carrice Cummins, Ph.D., is a Professor of Curriculum, Instruction, and Leadership at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, LA, and a specialist in Reading/Language Arts. She has over 40 years of experience as a classroom teacher, early childhood director, principal, curriculum supervisor, staff developer, consultant, and university professor. She chaired the LA Reading Leadership Team, served on the Governor's Harvard Institute for Statewide Literacy Initiatives Team, and continuously serves on numerous state department of education literacy committees. She is the Past-President of the International Reading Association (IRA) (2012-2013), and member of the IRA Teacher Education Research Team and Advocacy Committee. She is the Past-President of the Louisiana Reading Association (LRA) (1998-2000) and currently serves as Advisor to the Board. She has authored or co-authored several literacy books, edited a book for administrators on best practices, developed two national staff development workshops on comprehension strategies, published numerous articles, and has made widespread presentations. She is the mother of two and "Mema" to three beautiful grandchildren.



## Dr. Cathy Seymour

Dr. Seymour has been education for more than 40 years from K-12 settings to university teaching. She began her career as a classroom teacher and then worked for the Louisiana Department of Education as a technical assistant in schools throughout the northwest region of the state to improve instruction in K-6 classrooms. She returned to the classroom briefly, and then became the assistant principal of instruction at the Alternative High School in Caddo Parish while teaching graduate classes in curriculum and instruction at Centenary College of Louisiana. She then transitioned to university teaching at Northwestern State University where she taught pre-service teacher education course and graduate courses in curriculum and instruction as well as administration. Dr. Seymour has long been dedicated to the idea that teachers need to know the curriculum they are teaching, and, most importantly, have a plethora of teaching skills to reach the most reluctant of learners. After retiring as Assistant Dean in the College of Education at Northwestern, Dr. Seymour began working as an educational consultant through Pearson in classrooms all over the country. She worked extensively in Mobile City Schools and Huntsville School District in Alabama and Kansas City Schools over nine years. She has published numerous articles on instructional strategies, and continues to consult with schools in the area.



# EDUCATIONAL PANEL



## Dr. Dustin Whitlock

Dr. Dustin Whitlock is a native of Ruston, Louisiana. In various capacities, he has been serving schools and families in North Louisiana for the last 11 years. As a family counselor, a classroom teacher, a program coordinator, and a regional program director, Dustin has worked across many systems to support students

at the secondary level. As a certified classroom teacher in English, Social Studies, and Technology Education; Dustin has taught various courses, including Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement courses and was a member of district curricular realignment teams. As the New Tech Academies Director in Lincoln Parish Schools, he helped to develop career technical educational programs aligned with community industry needs and state-recognized credentials. As the North Louisiana Program Director for Propel America, he has continued to support students transitioning from high school into career/technical education programs and into upwardly mobile careers. Dustin holds an MA in Counseling & Guidance and an MA in Curriculum Instruction & Leadership from Louisiana Tech University and an Ed.D. Johns Hopkins University with a concentration in 21st Century Learning.



## Dr. Harrington Watson III

Dr. Harrington Watson, III, is a home grown native of the great city of Monroe, LA, and is the son of Darlene and Harrington Watson, Jr. More notably, he is the husband to the beautiful Ebony G. Watson and father to their son, Harrington Watson, IV.

Dr. Watson is a graduate of Ouachita Parish High School, Southern University and A&M College of Baton Rouge, LA, and the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Dr. Watson earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Southern University and Master of Education and Doctor of Education degrees from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, where he specialized in Educational Leadership. He is a member of Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.

He has been an educator for nearly 20 years and has served communities in both Baton Rouge, LA, and his hometown of Monroe where he has received numerous accolades. These opportunities have afforded Harrington vital insight which has served him well in his capacity as the principal of "THE" Wossman High School.

His personal philosophy is reflected in his belief that with his family behind him and the Lord before him, he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him. Dr. Watson has made Frederick Douglass' quote his personal mantra and truly believes "That it is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men". Dr. Watson is a servant of and for his people and it is his heart's desire to make a difference in the lives of those he's been charged to serve.

# EDUCATIONAL PANEL



## Dr. Kimberly Kimbell-Lopez

Dr. Kimberly Kimbell-Lopez is a professor in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Leadership in the College of Education at Louisiana Tech University. She has been an educator for over 30 years, and her areas of expertise include literacy and technology. She has contributed articles to Reading Today Online that focus on use of multimedia reading materials. She has provided professional development workshops focusing on vocabulary, comprehension, and writing across the state of Louisiana. Kim has written texts on literacy strategies, reading comprehension, and connecting traditional literature in reading and writing workshop. She can be contacted via email at [kkopez@latech.edu](mailto:kkopez@latech.edu).



## Dr. Libby Manning

Dr. Libby Manning is an Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Leadership at Louisiana Tech University where she teaches early childhood and elementary methods and practicum courses. Additionally, Dr. Manning serves as a university evaluator for the teacher candidates who are completing their clinical residency. She has a total of 32 years in the field of education- 10 years working with teacher candidates at the university level and 22 years teaching children in Kindergarten through 8th grade. While teaching in the K-8 setting, she became certified by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards in the area of Early Childhood Generalist and was awarded Lincoln Parish Teacher of the Year, Lincoln Parish Young Educator of the Year, and the Milken Educator Award.



## Julie Stephenson

Julie Stephenson is the Human Resources Coordinator for Lincoln Parish Schools in Ruston. In this role, Julie collaborates with school and district leaders to implement recruitment, staffing, evaluation, and retention initiatives.

Prior to this role, Julie served as the Executive Director of Educator Preparation at the Louisiana Department of Education. In this role, Julie oversaw the development and implementation of certification and educator preparation program policies. In this capacity, Julie designed, launched, and managed the Believe and Prepare pilot program, which catalyzed partnerships between school systems and preparation programs to produce classroom-ready teachers who meet schools' staffing needs. Under Julie's leadership, this initiative expanded fourfold and garnered national attention, which led to the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's adoption of comprehensive teacher preparation program design policy changes that ensure aspiring teachers complete a yearlong residency alongside an effective mentor teacher.

Julie began her career in education in the classroom as a secondary Spanish and English teacher. While teaching, Julie coordinated and led school and district-level secondary English curriculum development and professional development in her home district and other school districts across Louisiana, and was named the Louisiana High School Teacher of the Year in 2011.

# EDUCATIONAL PANEL



## Mandy Brown

Mandy Brown is the principal at Ruston Elementary School where she starts each day leading teachers, staff, and 3rd-5th grade students to become better people. She began her career in 2000. After teaching upper elementary for 14 years, she was a coordinating teacher for 2.5 years, and was promoted to principal in

February 2017.

Under her leadership, Ruston Elementary School has shown consistent annual growth by their increasing school performance score. Noteworthy is the 6 point increase in Ruston Elementary's students with disabilities subgroup score from 2018-2019. Brown has been recognized as a Lincoln Parish Honorable Mention Teacher of the Year, Lincoln Parish Principal of the Year, and North Louisiana Leader of the Year for The Achievement Network (ANet).

Brown grew up in Ruston, Louisiana and received her Bachelors in Elementary Education and Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from Louisiana Tech University, later adding on her Leadership Certification.

Brown's greatest accomplishment is being the mom of an artist, an athlete, and a fisherman. Her biggest supporter is her sports-loving-enthusiast husband, Nick.



## Shavonda Washington

Shavonda Washington began her career as on of Louisiana's first year-long Clinical Residents in 2014. Upon graduation in 2015, she began teaching 5th grade English Language Arts and Social Studies at Cypress Springs Elementary in Ruston, La. She has since excelled in her career, furthered her education,

and molded students and future teachers. In 2017, Ms. Washington served on the Student Well-Being Team conference at her school along with her peers, was a panelist at the National Field Experience Conference, and became a mentor with Louisiana Tech University's TEAM Model Residency Program hosting a resident. In 2018, she became both the Master ELA teacher and Mentor Teacher at her school. In 2019, she completed all certifications to become a Teacher Mentor and became Cypress and became Cypress Springs Elementary's Teacher of the Year. Most recently, she's become an Education Coordinator at the local Boys & Girls Club and will serve as the liaison between the club and Lincoln Parish Schools this year. Student Well-Being Team Member, Teacher Mentor, Clinical Resident Mentor, and Education Coordinator at the Boys & Girls Club.



# STUDENT PANEL



## Pastor Brian Wilson

Brian Wilson is married to Jasmine, and the father of 3 children ( Bryson, Brennan, Jazelle). He received his Master of Divinity from Morehouse School of Religion @ the ITC. He is the pastor of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, Shreveport, La. His hobbies are hanging out with his family, and calisthenics.



## Jayla Williams

Jayla Williams is a Senior from Shreveport. She is majoring in Elementary Education with certifications in Early Childhood Education and Secondary History. Williams is passionate about all things related to education. She currently serves as pre-service teacher representative on the state's The Early Literacy

Commission. Upon graduation, she plans to move to Memphis, Tennessee, in June 2022 to complete a residency program through the Memphis Teacher Residency and obtaining a master's degree in Urban Education.



## Patrice Hammitt Moderator

Patrice Hammitt is a graduate student in the Mental Health Counseling Program at Louisiana Tech University. She is completing her practicum and internship at the Juvenile Court for Caddo Parish (Specialty Court – Family Preservation Court) in

Shreveport. Hammitt is certified in Moral Recognition Therapy and Motivational Interviewing. Prior to graduate school, Hammitt worked as a Government Website Redesign Specialist for over nine years. She also volunteered her time and service at Bossier Maximum Women Facility in Plain Dealing for seven years as well as at the HUB Ministry in Shreveport for over six years



## Olivia Bury

Olivia Bury is in her first year of the Mental Health Counseling and Guidance graduate program. She also works for a non-profit organization called AgriSafe and is the QPR coordinator where she facilitates suicide prevention training webinars for farmers and farm families.

# STUDENT PANEL



## Thyme Turner

Thyme Turner is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana who currently resides in Raymond, Mississippi. She is an honor graduate of St. Joseph Catholic High School in Madison, Mississippi. Thyme is a former member of St. Joseph's concert band, orchestra and the Bruin Marching Band, where she served as the

first African-American drum major. Thyme actively participated in student government serving as Vice-President of her class in 7th, 8th and 9th grade and President of her class in 10th and 11th grade. She also served as a Leader for the school's retreat team and campus ministry. Thyme is a member of Holy Family Catholic Church in Jackson, Mississippi where she volunteers in the food pantry that provides bundles of food for the elderly in the north Jackson community. She spent the past summer participating in an early literacy internship at New Hope Christian School in Jackson, Mississippi. Thyme Turner is currently a sophomore studying Child Development and Early Literacy with a Concentration on Teacher Certification at Grambling State University. She is a President's List Scholar with a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point average. Thyme is an enthusiastic GRAMBassador and she was featured for Grambling's Women's History Month in 2021. Thyme Turner represents Grambling State University as a recurring panelist for the Gardner Institute's research on student engagement during the Covid-19 global pandemic, where she is the only student representing an HBCU.



## Isaiah Farrell

Isaiah Farrell, is a sophomore Music Education Major from Bastrop, Louisiana. He is an active member of the World Famed Tiger Marching Band at Grambling State University. A member of the Call Me MISTER Program and the first cohort of the The R.F. Lewis Scholars Program. Staying focused and committed to excellence

and scholarship he is respected by his peers as a man on a mission. Isaiah stays involved with his home church, St. Mary's CME Church of Bastrop, Louisiana. A volunteer with the Dream Camp in Bastrop, LA., he stands tall in his commitment and values of the DREAM CONFERENCE.

## Ja'Deric M. Talbert



Ja'Deric M. Talbert, a native of Arcadia, Louisiana, is an uprising Sophomore at The Illustrious Grambling State University. He is currently exploring the everchanging field of Elementary Education. Ja'Deric has been very active – serving as the 2019-20 and 2021-22 Call Me MISTER President, the 2021-22 SGA Sophomore Class Senator, a Student Ambassador, member of The Favrot Student Union Board (FSUB), and The GSU Earl Lester Cole Honors College; he also sits on the University's

Campus Advisory Committee, all while maintain an accumulative GPA of a 3.69. With over 150 hours of community service within Bienville Parish School Systems, it is evident on why he's majoring in elementary education. Upon graduation, Ja'Deric plans to attend graduate school to obtain his Masters in Curriculum and Instruction, and a Doctoral degree in Ed. Leadership. Eventually returning "back to the G" to serve as the Dean of The College of Education.

# STUDENT PANEL



## Vernita White-Taylor

Vernita White-Taylor, a native of Shreveport, LA, is a MSW student at Grambling State University. In 2016, she received a bachelor's degree in Health Care Administration with a concentration in Health Care Management. She enjoys writing poetry and inspirational stories. She has chosen a professional path

to become a licensed clinical social worker. She hopes to advocate for the voiceless. Mrs. White's career goal is to have a private practice and work within her community to create safe and affordable housing opportunities for those who are dealing with the devastations of poverty. She can often be heard resonating the sentiment of wanting to be the light in the lives of others exposed to so much darkness.



## Gabriel Grady

Gabriel Grady is a native of Indianapolis, MN pursuing a MSW degree in social work at Grambling State University (GSU). He also serves as an Area Coordinator of Housing at GSU. As an undergraduate, he attended the University of Southern Indiana and served as the President of the Activities Programming Board, Education

Chairperson for the Student Government Association, AMIGO mentor for incoming freshman, and was also chosen as the first Black Homecoming King. After graduating, Gabriel knew that he wanted the experience of a Historically Black College, and he decided to enroll at Grambling State University and pursue his lifetime goal of becoming a clinical social worker. Gabriel hopes to offer therapy to those that are underserved and serve as a lobbyist to meet the needs of vulnerable populations. Gabriel's favorite quote is one spoken by John Lennon-"In the end it will be alright, if it's not alright it's not the end".

# SOCIAL PANEL



## Leigh Hersey, PhD Moderator

Dr. Leigh Nanney Hersey is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and program coordinator for the MPA program. She received her PhD in Public Administration from Arizona State University in 2009, with a graduate certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Management.

She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia in Journalism and her MEd from Temple University in Athletic Administration. Hersey's teaching and research covers public and nonprofit administration, grant writing, civic engagement, and social media.

Hersey has presented at numerous academic and professional conferences throughout the United States and abroad. She has several journal articles and book chapters, and recently co-edited a book on the arts and civic engagement. Prior to joining academia, she worked in the nonprofit sector for more than a dozen years. Dr. Hersey also served on the City of Scottsdale (Arizona) Parks and Recreation Commission, chairing the commission in 2004. Hersey was recognized for her service with the 2021 ULM Foundation Award for Excellence in Service.



## Adam McGuirt

As Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives at Louisiana Tech University, Adam McGuirt oversees projects and initiatives that align with Louisiana Tech's Strategic Plan. Prior to serving his alma mater in this role, McGuirt served as the Director of Disaster Recovery and Strategic Initiatives overseeing campus recovery following the April 2019 EF-3 tornado. For the 12 years before the tornado, McGuirt served in a number of roles for LA Tech Athletics. Now, he uses that experience to serve all of Louisiana Tech, bringing parts of the University together to ensure efficiency across campus.

McGuirt and his wife April are the proud parents of Lily, Sophie, and Emily.



## Kathleen Richard

Kathleen Richard's compassion for helping young people in her local community brought her to Life Choices over 12 years ago where she serves as the Executive Director. Prior to serving at Life Choices, Richard was the development director at United Way, coordinated a health care grant through Louisiana Tech University and worked in medical social work.

Richard obtained her bachelor's degree in Speech Communication from Louisiana Tech University in 2000 and her master's degree in Social Work from Florida State University in 2004. Richard maintains that her most important job is being wife to Ryan and mom to Trenton (14) and Jacob (12). In their spare time, the Richards enjoy road trips, camping, and hiking with their boys.

# SOCIAL PANEL



## Adarian Williams

Adarian Williams is the Senior Manager of Congressional Relations at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF). Prior to joining CBCF, Williams served as Staff Assistant in the Washington, D.C. office of former U.S. Representative for Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District, Cedric L. Richmond. Prior

to his employment in former Congressman Richmond's office, Williams completed an Organizing Fellowship for the campaign of President Biden and a number of Congressional internships.

He is the founder of Dare 2 Lead LLC, an organization in Louisiana that seeks to create and sustain positive change within society. In the summer of 2020, Williams and his team brought together elected officials, law enforcement officers, religious leaders, and most importantly, families, students and citizens to discuss the ongoing racial unrest in the country, and to take united action in growing a thriving community for future generations. In the fall of 2020, he hosted and engaged more than 3,400 citizens in a virtual candidate forum for Louisiana's 5th Congressional District.

As an undergraduate student at Grambling State University, Williams was very active – serving in over 11 student organizations, leading the student body as the Student Government Association President for two consecutive terms, and representing Louisiana's publicly funded institutions of higher education as the Student Member to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Williams is a native of Simsboro. He is a passionate young professional who is building a promising career in public policy. He has committed his life to the upliftment and service of his community, country, and peers.



## George Lee IV

Pastor George Lee IV is a communicator, community leader, and church planter. Lee currently serves as the Minister of Community Engagement at Temple Baptist Church. Through his ministry at Temple, Lee works with local missions partners and serves as the pastor of The Springs, a multicultural, multiethnic, and

multigenerational church in the Barnett Springs community of Ruston. Lee also has the privilege of serving the students, faculty, and staff of Grambling State University through the Baptist Collegiate Ministry on campus.

Lee is involved on several local and regional boards including the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, Teach One to Lead One, Christian Community Action, The Well of North Louisiana, and the Center for Children and Families. Lee is married to Ciria (CiCi) Lee, and they have two children, McKenzie (6) and Kingston (5). The Lees are passionate about building and bridging relationships in north Louisiana through showing and sharing the love of Christ.



# SOCIAL PANEL



## Maurice M. White

Pastor Maurice M. White is married to the former Tiffany Dianna Owens. They are the parents of two children: Maurice M. White II and Mariah Nicole White. White is a 1998 graduate of C.E. Byrd High School and holds a Bachelor of Arts in English (2002) from Dillard University in New Orleans. In December 2005,

he received a Master of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans. White is currently the pastor of the Zion Traveler Baptist Church in Ruston.

# HEALTH PANEL



## Annette Straughter

Annette Straughter is a native of Ruston. She attended Ruston High School, Louisiana Tech University, and the Leadership Institute. Straughter is a nurse of 38 years with experience in Intensive Care/Critical Care, Emergency Services, Geriatrics nursing. She also has experience in business development for health care institutes. Currently, Straughter works for Lincoln Community Health Center as the Site Manager. She is also a Faculty addition to her primary job functions. Straughter is a Notary Public and serves as an elected Lincoln Parish Police Juror, representing District 12. Driven by her passion for her community, she takes pride in helping to make Lincoln Parish one of the best places to live, work, raise a family, and attend a school or to visit. Her hobbies include dancing with the Louisiana LunaChicks, woodworking at the Ruston Community Men's Shed, and being an active member of Christ Temple Baptist Church of Ruston.



## Billy Justice

Billy Justice currently serves as the Marketing and Sales Director with Vantage Health Plan, a Louisiana-based Health Insurance Company with corporate headquarters in Monroe. Justice has been the face of Vantage for over 25 years directing marketing and sales. In these roles, he manages over 20 in-house Marketing and Member Service personnel along with a growing network of over 1200 independent producers. Justice wrote the very first fully-insured policy for Vantage in June 1996. Justice has been instrumental in the development of many health insurance products for Vantage Health Plan.v

Justice is also actively involved with Louisiana Associations of Health Plans and has served on the board of directors with the Louisiana Association of Health Underwriters.



## Chris Stegall

Christopher Stegall has over 20 years of healthcare experience in various financial and operational roles within hospitals and physician practice settings. He is currently serving as Chief Financial Officer for a 70+ provider multispecialty partnership, Green Clinic Health System, in Ruston. He is a Cum Laude graduate of Louisiana Tech University, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Accounting, a Bachelor's degree in Marketing as well as his Master of Business Administration. Having a love of his community, he has served as campaign chairperson for the United Way of Northeast Louisiana for two years, a member of the Louisiana Tech University Alumni Association Board and Division of Nursing Advisory Board. He is a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, where he serves on the college ministry team. He enjoys playing golf, traveling, and spending quality time with his wife, Amy, and their children, Bolton and Callie.

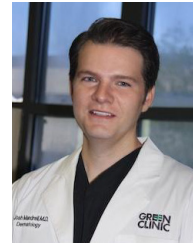
# HEALTH PANEL



## Dr. Jackie White

Dr. Jackie White is the new Region 8 Medical director for LDH/OPH. She and her family have lived in Ruston for the past 20 years. A native of south Louisiana, she traveled north to attend Louisiana Tech University. From there she went to LSU Shreveport for her medical degree. Following medical school, she completed a

residency in Emergency Medicine in Little Rock, Arkansas. For 20 years, White worked ER full-time and then began to split time with primary care and public health. She has served as the Medical Director at The Health Hut for the past six years. This non-profit organization, under the guidance and backing of the Lincoln Health Foundation, has provided free health care in and around Lincoln Parish. During this time, she has helped to fill the gap for many health care services-including translators, dietitians, medicines and medical supplies, education, and primary care needs for the underserved. Connecting community healthcare needs with local, state, and national partners has helped further the vision of both The Health Hut and the Lincoln Health Foundation. Working with so many great people on the local, regional, and state-level during this COVID-19 pandemic has helped to bring awareness and information about the importance of access to healthcare for all. White has been married for 27 years to Toby, and they have four grown sons. All of them have graduated or are currently attending Louisiana Tech.



## Dr. Josh Mandrell

Dr. Josh Mandrell is a board-certified dermatologist. He earned his undergraduate degree from Southern Illinois University and a medical doctorate from Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, with a distinction in Community Service and distinction in Research. After finishing his dermatology residency at Loyola University

Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois, he began his professional career 10 years ago leading the department of dermatology at the Green Clinic in Ruston, where he also serves on the Board of Directors. He is a fellow of both the American Academy of Dermatology and the American Society of Mohs Surgery. Mandrell has authored over 10 medical publications and does medical-legal consulting. He enjoys being involved in the community through his church and serving on the campaign cabinet of United Way of Northeast Louisiana. Mandrell believes the best healthcare providers are able to overcome challenges in the healthcare system by combining expert skills with equal doses of honesty and friendliness. He is proud to call the Ruston community home with his wife, Abby, a Louisiana Tech graduate, and 2-year-old son, Caleb.

# HEALTH PANEL



## Jillian Carter

Jillian Carter is a Senior Pre-Dental student at Louisiana Tech University. She is majoring in Biological Sciences and minoring in Chemistry. She plans on graduating in May 2022 and attending dental school in the next fall. At Louisiana Tech University, she is involved in The BioMorph Lab, School of Biological Sciences

Ambassadors, Pre-Dental Society, Women in STEM, School of Biological Sciences Alumni Mentorship Program, and First Baptist Ruston. Currently, she serves as the Co-Director and Founder of Women in STEM, the President of Tri-Beta, the Co-Director of the School of Biological Sciences, and the Treasurer of Pre-Dental Society. She's motivated by knowledge in science, and by the professional opportunities that studying STEM allows.



## Kathy Hall

Kathy Hall has over 15 years of experience in healthcare and is a great asset within the Allegiance Health Management system. She most recently served as the CEO for Winn Parish Medical Center and prior to that, as the Chief Operating Officer for Bienville Medical Center. Hall is married to Jodie and has one

son, Hunter Hall, who is an internal medicine resident doctor in New Orleans. All three are proud Louisiana Tech graduates. Hall will continue to focus on and ensure high-quality health care in our Ruston hospital. Hall's goal is to improve the quality of care at North Louisiana Medical Center and elevate the focus on customer service.

# HEALTH PANEL



## Khalil Brownlee

Khalil Brownlee is a native of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and is a senior Biology/Pre-Medicine major at Louisiana Tech University with a minor in Health Informatics and Information Management. He is involved in various organizations on campus including Black Student Union, Minority Association of Pre-Medical

Students, Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society, and Student Recruiters, while holding leadership positions in them as well. Nationally, he is a member of the APA's Black Men in Early Psychiatry Pipeline Program and the Student National Medical Association. Recently chosen to be a Louis Stokes-Louisiana Alliance for Minority Participation Scholar, he plans to pursue a Master of Business Administration with a focus in Healthcare Administration following graduation in May 2022 before attending medical school to obtain a Doctor of Medicine degree and become an oncologist



## Nancy Darland

Nancy Darland is a Registered Nurse with national certification in Perinatal Nursing and Professor Emerita at Louisiana Tech University. She retired after teaching nursing at Tech for 36 years and recently returned as an Adjunct Clinical Instructor in Maternal-Newborn Nursing. She championed Service-Learning at Louisiana

Tech as experiential learning, giving students the opportunity to gain experience in their field of study while being of service to the surrounding community. Nancy is herself active in community service, having held volunteer leadership roles in organizations such as the March of Dimes, Zeta Rho chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. She has received recognition for her volunteerism and professional leadership such as the Ruston Junior Auxiliary Betty Robbins Volunteer Award, March of Dimes Foundation Battered Boot Award, Patricia E Thompson Research, Scholarship and Service Award by the Beta Chi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, International Honor Society for Nursing, Louisiana Nurses Foundation Nightingale Award for Outstanding Community Achievement by a Registered Nurse and was inducted into the inaugural class of Louisiana State Nurses Association Fellows. Darland is a graduate of Louisiana Tech and holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nursing from Northwestern State University. Darland is active in nursing professional development serving as a reviewer of continuing nursing education and also with a federal grant providing education about infant adoption concerning hospital-based adoption support services.