



LOUISIANA NETWORKS OF EXCELLENCE FOR TOMORROW

The Louisiana Networks of Excellence for Tomorrow (LA-NEXT) is a Louisiana EPSCoR organized cooperative effort between the National Science Foundation and the Louisiana Board of Regents. The goals of LA-NEXT during 2025-30 are to:

- (1) build and sustain strong networks of collaboration, communication, and partnership among Louisiana's institutions of higher education (IHEs) and
- (2) expand the the STEM R&D ecosystem of the State.

A mechanism being pursued to achieve these goals is competitive seed grant funding. Current programs are described on the right. [For more information about these grants, scan the QR code.](#)

Additional seed grant and workforce development programs are anticipated in future years.

We request the involvement of researchers and leaders from Louisiana IHEs in fine-tuning LA-NEXT's agenda and future investments. Come join the discussion at the first annual meeting of LA-NEXT:

Date:

January 8, 2026

Venue:

**Center for Energy Studies
Louisiana State University
93 South Quad Drive,
Baton Rouge, LA 70803**

CUF *Core User Facilities*

Provides access to sustainable, dedicated, state-of-the-art, experimental facilities for research and development in advanced manufacturing.

SURE *Supervised Undergraduate Research Experience*

Seeks to further this goal by fostering opportunities for students to conduct supervised research with a faculty mentor.

LINKS *Links with Industry & National laboratories*

Facilitates science and engineering research, education, and training opportunities for faculty, post-doctoral researchers, undergraduate and graduate students.

GRASS *Graduate Student Supplements*

Seeks to supplement the funding provided to outstanding graduate students to conduct supervised research in STEM disciplines aligned with the State Science & Technology plan.

IGNITE *Initiating Growth through Networks & Interdisciplinary Teamwork*

Seeks to support opportunities for faculty (mentee) at institutions classified as Carnegie Research Colleges and Universities (RCUs) and Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs) to initiate research collaborations in STEM disciplines with a mentor at a Carnegie R1 or R2 institution.



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