



# **Louisiana GEAR UP**

## **Explorers' Club Conference and Leadership Summit**

**March 20 - 22, 2014**





Dear Conference Attendees:

We would like to personally welcome each of you to the 2014 LA GEAR UP Explorers' Club Leadership Conference and Summit and thank you for attending our conference and bringing your expertise to our gathering.

To students in particular, we hope that as leaders and representatives of your school, you will take what you learn from this conference and apply it not only to yourself but also to your classmates and your school.

To all the On-Site School Coordinators and Explorers' Club Sponsors, we want to thank you for responding to our requests for information in the past month. You are greatly appreciated, and we hope that all of you will keep working hard at motivating and guiding others in the right direction.

To parents and chaperones, we say we could not accomplish what we do without your support and leadership.

Throughout the conference, we ask that everyone stay engaged and help us shape the future. It is our hope that everyone will be Motiv8ted by our presentations and speakers. Our personal respect and thanks go out to all of you.

Sincerely,  
2014 Explorers' Club State Officers

### 2014 Explorers' Club State Officer Team

 <p><b>Darian Johnson</b> President Bastrop High School</p>	 <p><b>Darius Spurlock</b> VP, Competitive Events Scotlandville Magnet High School</p>	 <p><b>Shania Dauterive</b> VP, Membership Westgate High School</p>
 <p><b>Brandon Jones</b> VP, Community Service Scotlandville Magnet High School</p>	 <p><b>D'Anna Williams</b> VP, Club Development IMSA West High School</p>	 <p><b>Timenee Thomas</b> LA GEAR UP Alumni Leader</p>

## Explorers' Club Overview

Explorers' Clubs, a component of the Summer/Academic-Year Learning Projects, are student-run organizations that provide peer leadership opportunities and extend the benefits of Summer Transition Programs throughout the academic year. Explorers' Clubs charge members to make wise academic and behavioral decisions leading to success in postsecondary education. Club members are peer leaders tasked with helping other students at their school make wise decisions as well.

All Clubs emphasize themes organized around the ABCS: Academics, Behavior & Leadership, College Preparation and Career Exploration, and Service to School and Community.

This year for the first time, Louisiana GEAR UP hosted statewide elections for state level Explorers' Club Officers. Strong leaders from each Club had the opportunity to take on a leadership role at a higher level. State officers are tasked to encourage Explorers' Clubs across the state to collaborate, compete, and celebrate with one another. This officer team has taken on additional responsibilities and time commitment outside of local Club functions.

## Explorers' Club Success

- 100% of Clubs submitted a Roster, showing a combined membership of 1715!
- Student participation continues to be high in most Clubs, with data showing that 20 Clubs are engaging 20% or more of their cohort each month YTD. Some schools are connecting with over 100 students each month!
- Clubs are drawing large groups to meetings, college fairs, campus visits, and community service.
- To date, more than 225 Club lessons have been delivered. Lessons have included topics such as ACT test prep, goal setting exercises, and financial management.
- Over 150 Club projects have been completed this school year. Projects this year have ranged from hosting blood drives, to organizing and participating in community service projects like volunteering at local nursing homes.





# Conference Agenda At-a-Glance

## Thursday, March 20

Time	Session Title	Room
3:00 - 5:30 PM	Conference Registration Open	Salon Foyer
5:30 PM	Opening Session / Dinner Posting the Colors: 377 Theater Sustainment Command Poetry Reading, Ja'Marcus Goudeau School Roll Call - Show your School Pride!	Salon I-IV
7:00 PM	Arel Moodie, "Why Not Me?"	Salon I-IV
8:00 PM	Louisiana GEAR UP Olympics with FOCUS Training	Salon I-IV
10:00 PM	Student Curfew	

## Friday, March 21

7:00 AM	Breakfast & MOTIV8ION: GEARS of College Success		Salon I-IV
7:45 AM	ACT Peer Support		Salon I-IV
8:20 AM - 10:30 AM	11th Grade Track	Filling in the Blanks More Precious than Gold	Salon III
	12th Grade Track	Grid Walk More Precious than Gold	Salon IV
	School Track	Explorers' Club Sustainability The Insider's Cheat Sheet to Connecting with Youth	Salon I & II
	Parent Track	A Parent's Guide to Student Success The Insider's Cheat Sheet to Connecting with Youth Millennials: Supporting the New Generation	Harry Lee A
10:30 AM - 10:40 AM	Refreshment Break		
10:40 AM - 11:40 AM	11th Grade Track	Grid Walk	Salon III
	12th Grade Track	Louisiana Connect and You	Salon IV
	School & Parent Tracks	Community Build	Salon I & II
11:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Lunch Buffet		Salon I-IV
12:15 PM - 12:55 PM	College Student Panel Discussion		Salon I-IV
1:00 PM - 1:35 PM	LOSFA Fly Tour 2014: College Quest		Salon I-IV
1:40 PM - 2:30 PM	11th Grade, School and Parent Tracks	Discussion Panel: Applying to College	Salon III & IV
	12th Grade Track	Kickin' it Old School with Coach T	Salon I & II
2:35 PM - 3:25 PM	11th Grade Track	Kickin' it Old School with Coach T	Salon III & IV
	12th Grade, School and Parent Tracks	Discussion Panel: Transitioning from High School to College	Salon I & II
3:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Leisure Time		
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Dinner Buffet and Youth Congress Presentation Support Service Pathway		Salon I-IV
6:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Career Runway		Salon I-IV
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Creative Thinking Challenges and Club Photos		Salon I-IV
8:15 PM - 10:00 PM	Evening Entertainment / Dance		Salon I-IV
10:00 PM	Student Curfew		

## Saturday, March 22

Time	Session Title	Room
7:30 AM - 8:00 AM	Breakfast	Salon I-IV
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Awards Ceremony	Salon I-IV
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Human Machine Club Photos	Salon I-IV
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Break	
10:15 AM - 10:45 AM	Dr. Tireka Cobb, "You, Incorporated: Becoming a Successful Business"	Salon I-IV
10:45 AM - 11:15 AM	Closing Session	Salon I-IV

# College Application and FAFSA Completion

A computer station in the Boardroom has been designated for the completion of college applications and FAFSA online. Appointments have been scheduled according to student survey responses. Please show up 10 minutes before your scheduled appointment.

## Workshop Descriptions

### Why Not Me?

**Presenter: Arel Moodie**

**Thursday, 7:00 PM - Plenary Session**

Too many people ask "Why should I go to college?" What if we asked, instead, "Why not me?" Why can't I be the first person in my family to go to college? Why can't I overcome my current situation and get a degree? Why not me? In this presentation, students learn how to overcome their misconceptions and the secrets to taking action and overcoming challenges, no matter what the current situation may be.

### Louisiana GEAR UP Olympics

**Presenter: AJ Watson and Todd Gehrman, FOCUS Training**

**Thursday, 8:00 PM - Plenary Session**

Network, compete, and have fun with your fellow LA GEAR UP Explorers' Club leaders at this highly engaging evening session. Bring your enthusiasm, leadership skills, and positive attitude because this is how winners will be selected. Prizes will be given out to the top Olympians and winning teams.

### MOTIV8ION: GEARS of College Success

**Presenters: Explorers' Club State Officer Team**

**Friday, 7:15 AM - Plenary Session**

In this session your statewide Explorers' Club Officers hone in on the gears of college success: financial aid, ACT, college readiness, decision making, future leaders, options, focus, and success.

### ACT Peer Support

**Presenters: Judy Chen and Jarron Williams, East St. John High School**

**Friday, 7:45 AM - Plenary Session**

Judy Chen and Jarron Williams, high ACT scorers from East St. John High School, share tips and strategies to stay focused and academically fit during ACT testing.

### Filling in the Blanks

**Presenter: Dr. Keena Arbuthnot**

**Friday, 8:20 AM - 11th Grade Track**

Dr. Keena Arbuthnot provides strategies to help increase standardized test scores. These strategies include practical techniques that show students how to approach the standardized testing environment as well as how to prepare themselves psychologically for taking standardized tests.

## Grid Walk

**Presenter: AJ Watson, FOCUS Training**

**Friday, 8:20 AM - 12th Grade Track, 10:40 AM - 11th Grade Track**

Teams work together to navigate their way across the Grid while overcoming various road blocks. Map Masters and Scorekeepers provide the framework of direction for each team as they develop systems to communicate and achieve the goal.

## Explorers' Club Sustainability

**Presenter: Todd Gehrmann, FOCUS Training**

**Friday, 8:20 AM - School Track**

As the current GEAR UP grant comes to a close it is more important than ever to share best practices and put systems in place to improve and sustain current efforts. Come prepared to share your success stories and strategies for overcoming challenges.

## A Parent's Guide to Student Success

**Presenter: Dianna Frank, Louisiana GEAR UP**

**Friday, 8:20 AM - Parent Track**

This workshop will provide parents with valuable resources to assist their children with the transition. Parents will leave the workshop with information on graduation requirements, ACT/SAT testing, FAFSA completion, college admissions, financial aid, and Louisiana Connect. Parents will have an opportunity to ask questions and/or express concerns about their teens' postsecondary choices.

## The Insider's Cheat Sheet to Connecting with Youth

**Presenter: Arel Moodie**

**Friday, 9:00 AM - Parent Track, 10:00 AM - School Track**

During this eye opening and action packed presentation, you will walk away with strategies on how to increase your student's internal drive to go to and succeed in school by simply improving how you use language and how you emotionally respond.

## More Precious than Gold

**Presenters: Alayna Davis and Lauren Smith, Big Buddy**

**Friday, 9:30 AM - 11th Grade and 12th Grade Tracks**

Students will be challenged to think outside the box in this presentation highlighting Big Buddy's high-school workforce development program, Level-UP! The presentation addresses aspects of student employment and internships and dares students to look within themselves to recognize their potential and become the leaders of the Millennial Boom!

## Millennials: Supporting the New Generation

**Presenters: Gaylynne Mack, Big Buddy**

**Friday, 9:30 AM - Parent Track**

This BIG Buddies presentation will help parents learn how to support their teens through Positive Youth Development practices, emphasize the connection between mentoring relationships and career goals, and discuss the impact of volunteer efforts on community.

## Louisiana Connect and You

**Presenter: Jerri Mack, LOSFA**

**Friday, 10:40 AM - 12th Grade Track**

Louisiana Connect is a free comprehensive college access and career planning resource just for you! Louisiana Connect can help you answer these questions and more: Can I afford a college education? Which college is right for me? Will I qualify for scholarships? How do I find them? Am I on track to receive TOPS? Is there an app to help me with this process?

## Community Build

**Presenter: AJ Watson, FOCUS Training**

**Friday, 10:40 AM - School & Parent Track (combined)**

If you could create your own city from the ground up, what would it look like? Teams in this activity will use varied resources and support to build their community the way they visualize. The results help us to understand some of the inequalities and responsibilities of modern society.

## College Student Discussion Panel

**Presenter: Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP)**

**Friday, 12:15 PM - Plenary Session**

Most high school students wonder what it's like to be a college student. Wonder no more! This panel of current college students from various colleges across Louisiana will provide a bird's eye view into college life from the student perspective.

## LOSFA FLY TOUR 2014: College Quest

**Presenters: Nyetta Meaux, Britt Kelly, Kendra Woods, Ebony Holmes**

**Friday, 12:50 PM - Plenary Session**

This dynamic theatrical presentation uses poetry, music, and drama to address topics ranging from credit and money management to financial aid for college.

## Discussion Panel: Applying to College

**Presenters: Admissions Professionals from Louisiana Colleges and Universities**

**Friday, 1:40 PM - 11th Grade Track**

In this session specially designed for high school juniors, admissions professionals from Louisiana Colleges and Universities provide insight into the college application process along with inside information as to how colleges go about the process of selecting students. The application and admissions process is an integral part of the transition from high school to college, and it is not too early to start making postsecondary plans.

## Kickin' it Old School with Coach T

**Presenter: Timenee Thomas, Louisiana GEAR UP Alum**

**Friday, 1:40 PM - 12th Grade Track, 2:35 PM - 11th Grade Track**

Are you worried about the dreaded "freshman 15," the weight gain commonly associated with the first year of college? Fear not! LA GEAR UP Alum Timenee Thomas shares strategies for surviving the first-year experience with waistline intact. Wear your sneakers, and be ready to break a sweat!

## Discussion Panel: Transitioning from High School to College

**Presenters: Admissions Professionals from Louisiana Colleges and Universities**

**Friday, 2:35 PM - 12th Grade Track**

In this session specifically designed for high school seniors, admissions professionals from Louisiana Colleges and Universities provide insight into the steps students need to take once they have been accepted and the FAFSA has been completed. Panelists will discuss tasks that must be completed prior to the first day of class, present a timeline for submitting an application for housing, and provide tips about the student support services available on campus. Congratulations! You have been accepted! Now it is time to complete all the necessary steps to make sure you are a college student in the fall.

## Youth Congress Presentation

**Presenters: Jameshaulyn Fernandez, Ja'Marcus Goudeau, Emily Ryan, and Khalil Roy**

**Friday, 6:00 PM - Plenary Session**

Jameshaulyn Fernandez, Ja'Marcus Goudeau, Emily Ryan, and Khalil Roy share highlights of their trip to San Francisco in July 2013 as Louisiana members of the competitively-selected NCEP/GEAR UP National Youth Conference.

## Support Service Pathway

**Presenter: Charlie Lewis, Louisiana GEAR UP**

**Friday, 6:15 PM - Plenary Session**

Charlie Lewis, LA GEAR UP Evaluation Coordinator, provides insight into postsecondary programs that promote college success.

## Career Runway

**Friday, 6:30 PM - Plenary Session**

Is agonizing about your career of choice giving you the blues? Are you setting yourself up for a career wardrobe malfunction? Let us ease your worries and help you select a wardrobe that will make a lifelong statement. Watch our models spice it up on the catwalk as they "Rip the Career Runway" Louisiana GEAR UP style! This exclusive showing of premiere career fashions worn by professionals in career fields from I.T. to film will leave you ready to GEAUX to WORK.

## Creative Thinking Challenges

**Presenters: AJ Watson and Todd Gehrmann, FOCUS Training**

**Friday, 7:00 PM - Plenary Session**

Brain-teasers, puzzles, enigmas? Tackling unusual and challenging problems is something every leader needs to deal with. Creative Thinking Challenges is a crash course in creative problem solving and time management.

## Human Machine

**Presenters: AJ Watson and Todd Gehrmann, FOCUS Training**

**Saturday, 8:30 AM - Plenary Session**

Participants create a moving, functional machine and sell it to the public. The catch? This invention is made of people! This often-outrageous activity gets participants thinking about teamwork and promotion of their organizations from a whole new perspective.

## You, Incorporated: Becoming a Successful Business

**Presenter: Dr. Tireka Cobb, Louisiana GEAR UP**

**Saturday, 10:15 AM - Plenary Session**

This session will connect themes and topics covered during the conference to implementation strategies for students, parents, school/district staff to use as they journey into their last semester of school, postsecondary institutions, careers, parenting, and life in general.

## Featured Speakers

### A.J. Watson

A.J. Watson is an executive trainer at FOCUS Training and a committed student of leadership. With his energy, charisma, and passion he has been training others to better understand the principles of teamwork, effective communication, vision development, and professionalism for more than 12 years. A.J. holds a Masters in Business Administration with a concentration in Strategy and Management from the University of Michigan Ross School of Business and a Bachelors of Business Administration in Finance from Howard University.



### Todd Gehrman

Todd Gehrman is a founding partner of FOCUS Training. Todd has been a professional leadership trainer and speaker for over 20 years. He has spent that time traveling around the country presenting his leadership message, "Achieving Excellence Through Understanding and Action!" to tens of thousands of businesspeople, students, and educators. Todd is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Madison with a B.A. in Philosophy and Political Science.



### Arel Moodie

Arel Moodie is the best selling author of *Your Starting Point for Student Success* and is known as America's Top Young Speaker. He started an Internet business in college that helped students find off-campus housing, roommates, and sublets. After that company was acquired, Arel became one of the owners of Impact, a million dollar event production and education company. As a professional speaker, Arel Moodie has spoken to over 150,000 students in 45 states and 5 countries.



### Dr. Keena Arbuthnot

Dr. Keena Arbuthnot has been researching the achievement gap for the last ten years and is dedicated to helping policymakers, researchers, academics, and teachers better understand standardized testing and the Black-White achievement gap. Dr. Arbuthnot received a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, specializing in Psychometrics, Educational Measurement, Applied Statistics, and Program Evaluation. She holds a M.Ed. degree in Educational Psychology and a B.S. degree in Mathematics.



### Dr. Tireka Cobb

As Assistant Director, Dr. Cobb serves as operational manager of the LA GEAR UP State grant under the direction of the LOSFA Executive Director, Dr. Sujuan Boutté. Dr. Cobb earned her Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Educational Leadership and Research, specializing in Educational Technology, at Louisiana State University. Dr. Cobb was initially hired as the Program Evaluator for LA GEAR UP and developed school performance profiles and funding formulas for the 2013-14 academic year.



## Conference Presenters

### 377 Theater Sustainment Command

U.S. Army Reserve, 1948-present, Belle Chase, Louisiana

### Big Buddy

The Big Buddy Program provides innovative out-of-school time programming and facilitates mentoring relationships for youth in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Since 1979, Big Buddy has facilitated matches between Mentors and youth in need of a special friend. Mentors are a positive reaction to challenges facing underserved youth as they seek to achieve academic success and become contributing members of the community. Special thanks to Alayna Davis, Level UP! Project Manager; Gaylynn Mack, Executive Director; and Lauren Smith, Program Operations Director.

### Council of Student Body President (COSBP) Members

The Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents of Louisiana was formed to promote communication among the students and member schools of the LSU System, the SU System, the UL System, and the LCTC System, and to further educational and social interests and to support the advancement of higher education. The Council serves as a representative body for those students of the colleges and universities which belong to the member systems, and has the authority to convey the opinions, wishes and needs of those students to the Louisiana Board of Regents, execute measures to improve the lives of those students, and to build and maintain strong working relationships among member student groups.

### FOCUS Training

FOCUS Training is an interactive leadership development company that specializes in serving educational institutions and organizations. For over 20 years FOCUS has partnered with schools, districts, and GEAR UP organizations to improve student performance and help educators achieve excellence.

### LOSFA

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) is a state agency and the administrative arm of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission and the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority. Among the programs administered by LOSFA are Louisiana's premier merit-based scholarship program, the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS); the state's 529 college savings plan, the Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust (START) program; the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship program; the TOPS Tech Early Start Program; the Go Grant program; the Chafee Educational Training Voucher (ETV) Program; and the John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program. Special thanks to Andrew Granger, LOSFA Student Worker, for technical assistance and to Caleshia Clark, Financial Aid Specialist III; Erica Hughes, Student Financial Aid Specialist; Deborah Paul, Director, Scholarship and Grants Division; Paula Smith, Financial Aid Specialist III, for offering their expertise and hands-on assistance with FAFSA and college applications.

### LOSFA FLY TEAM 2014

LOSFA's Financial Literacy for You (FLY) is a collaboration of LOSFA representatives and Big Buddy participants that use music, drama, and poetry to convey the importance of financial literacy. The production tours the state, stopping at high schools and community venues. Special thanks to Ebony Holmes, Public Information and Communications Representative; Britt Kelly, Public Information Officer; Nyetta Meaux, College Access Challenge Grant Director; Kendra Woods, Public Information Officer II.

### College and University Representatives Participating on Discussion Panels

Delgado Community College, *Ebony Blackwell*, Enrollment Advisor  
Nicholls State University, *Maggie Jones*, Admissions Counselor  
River Parishes Community College, *Whitley Garrison*, Admissions Recruiter  
Southeastern Louisiana University, *Marjorie Parker*, Admission Counselor/Minority Recruiter  
Southern University, *Robert Rene*, Associate Director/Senior Recruiter  
University of New Orleans, *Carlos Gooden*, Assistant Director of Recruitment  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette, *Andy Benoit*, Director of Admissions  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette, *Joshua Perrodin*, Assistant Director of Recruiting Services  
University of Louisiana Monroe, *Ahmaad Solmone*, Enrollment Services Specialist  
Xavier University, *Holly Terrie*, Admissions Counselor  
Xavier University, *Bryan Carraway*, Admissions Counselor



## Louisiana GEAR UP Staff



### Neal Boyd

As Communications Coordinator and Webmaster Extraordinaire, Mr. Boyd works hand-in-hand other GEAR UP staff to create print, web, video, and multimedia productions. Before becoming a part of the GEAR UP team, Neal created multimedia for Governor Mike Foster's policy department, developed websites and print media for Explorer Interactive I-55 Internet Services, and worked on various freelance projects for such companies as ESPN, AOL, and Baker Media.

### Renee Carter

As Fiscal Coordinator, Ms. Carter exercises project leadership over the matching funds component of LA GEAR UP, maintaining records for the annual performance report and ensuring compliance with complex tracking requirements for audit purposes. She also monitors the LA GEAR UP budget, provides fiscal training, and assists with special projects as needed. Before joining the LA GEAR UP staff, Ms. Carter managed hospital contracts at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (New Orleans) and held accounting positions at Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge) and Neese Industries (Gonzales). Ms. Carter received her Bachelor's Degree in 1997 and her Master's Degree in 2000 in Accounting from SUBR.

### Dianna Frank

As a program coordinator, Ms. Frank serves nine schools in three parishes. A graduate of Our Lady of Holy Cross College, where she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Social Counseling and a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Counseling, Ms. Frank worked as a counselor for the TRIO program at the University of New Orleans before joining LA GEAR UP in 2002.

### Delreese Hector-Smith

As Executive Assistant to the LA GEAR UP Assistant Project Director, Ms. Hector works closely with LA GEAR UP staff and exercises project leadership in designing and executing conferences and workshops and leads or provides assistance with special projects as needed. Prior to working with LA GEAR UP, Ms. Smith was a substitute teacher for the East Baton Rouge Parish School System. She is a dual degree recipient, earning a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Bachelor of Arts in Sociology in 2002 from Louisiana State University.

### Denise Jacobs

As one of three Program Coordinators, Ms. Jacobs serves ten schools in three parishes. In 2001, she earned a Master's Degree in English Language and Literature from Central Michigan University. Before joining LA GEAR UP, Ms. Jacobs taught Composition, Business Writing, Introduction to Fiction, and Images of Women in Literature at Louisiana State University, where she was nominated for the TIAA Cref Outstanding Service-Learning Faculty Award.

### Charlie Lewis

As Evaluation Coordinator/Program Analyst, Ms. Lewis communicates ideas and assistance for best practices on project plans, program processes, and development. Before joining the LA GEAR UP team in December 2013, Ms. Lewis received a Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology from Southern University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix, Baton Rouge Campus. Ms. Lewis has 24+ graduate hours in areas such as statistics, research methods and program evaluation. Her specific research interests include: student advocacy, leadership, and accountability.

### Nyetta Meaux

Ms. Meaux is the College Access Challenge Grant Director at LOSFA. She has a passionate commitment to college access and works to ensure all students throughout Louisiana are afforded "equity of access" to college and career information. Prior to joining LOSFA's staff, Ms. Meaux served in the field of higher education for 8 years, most recently as the Assistant Director of Admissions for Our Lady of the Lake College. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Performing Arts from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (2004) and Master of Science in Human Resource Education and Leadership from Louisiana State University (2010).

## Louisiana GEAR UP Staff, cont'd

### Savitri Scott

As a program coordinator, Ms. Scott serves ten schools in four parishes. Ms. Scott is a graduate of Dillard University, where she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in English, and Southern University, where she received a Master's Degree in Education. Ms. Scott brings ten years of teaching experience in the Louisiana Public School System to her LA GEAR UP role.

### Timenee Thomas

Timenee Thomas is a 2008 Bunkie High School graduate and a GEAR UP alum. In 2011, she graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education. She currently teaches physical education at a Ruston-area junior high school and also serves as the girls' head basketball coach. Ms. Thomas is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Administration of Sport and Physical Activity at La Tech.

### Kendra Williams

Kendra Williams joined LA GEAR UP in October 2013 as a Graduate Assistant/Researcher. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mass Communications with a Concentration in Public Relations from SUBR and is currently pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Public Administration at LSU. Ms. Williams has 12 graduate hours in areas such Budgeting, Statistics, and Economics.

## Conference Coordinators & Club Management

FOCUS Training | (877) 273-4670

leadership.focustraining.com

**Betsy Barnich**, Director of Client Relations

betsy.barnich@focustraining.com

**Todd Gehrman**, Managing Partner, Owner

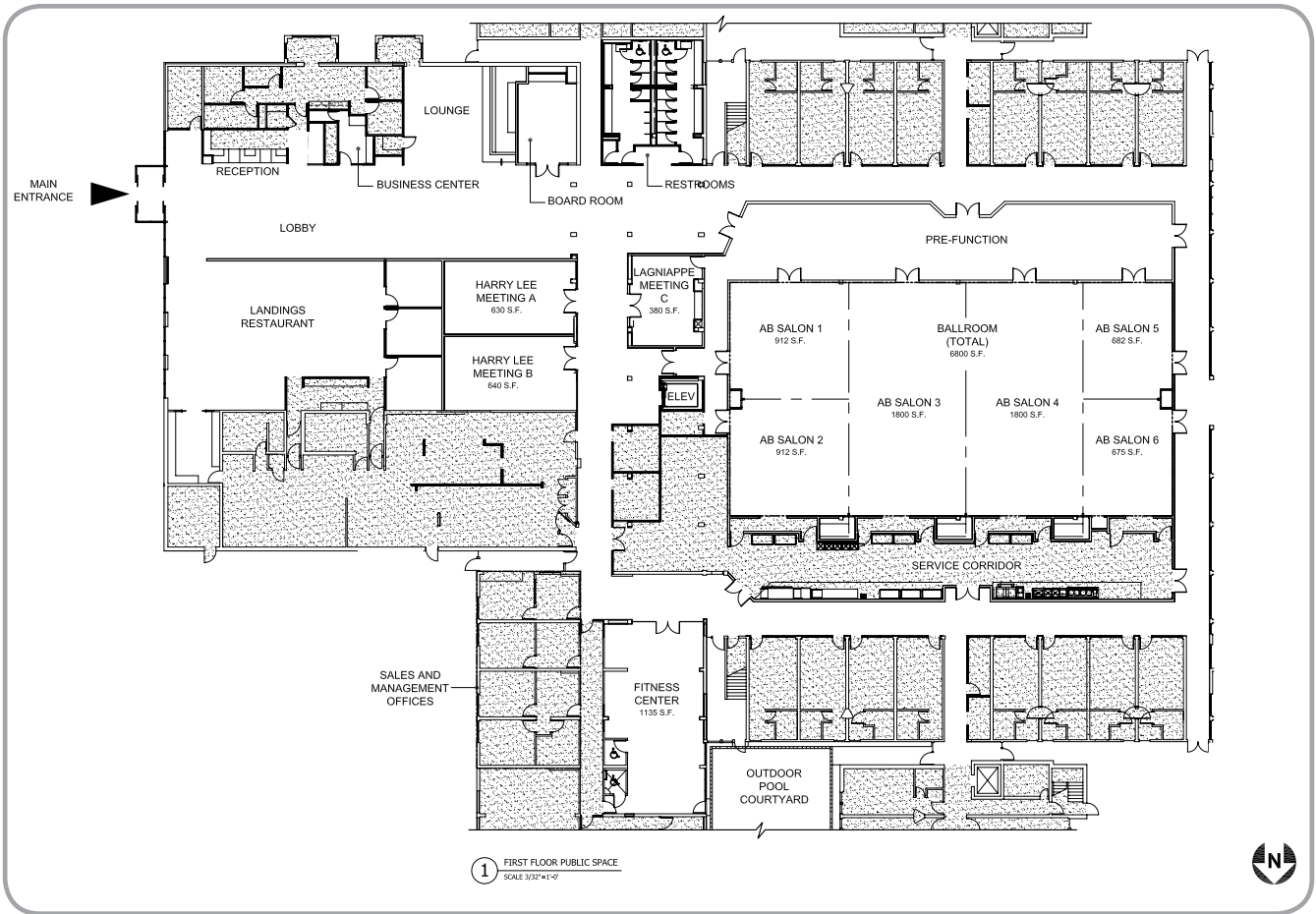
todd.gehrman@focustraining.com

**Matt Meuleners**, Managing Partner, Owner

matt.meuleners@focustraining.com



# Crowne Plaza Conference Center



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