Agriculture Business and Community Forum Agenda

UL-Lafayette LITE Center, 537 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, LA

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

7:30-8:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee

Welcome

8:00-8:10 a.m. Welcome and Introduction of Special Guests
- Monique Boulet, Chief Executive Officer, Acadiana Planning Commission

8:10-8:30 a.m. Introduction to the National & State Disaster Recovery Frameworks
- Wayne Rickard, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator
  Declarations: DR-4263-LA (March Flooding) and DR-4277-LA (August Flooding)

Economic Recovery Support Function

8:30-11:30 a.m. Agriculture
USDA and University Panel Discussion
- Lee Jones, Assistant State Director, USDA Rural Development
- Randal Fontenot, District Director, Louisiana USDA Farm Service Agency State Office
- Billy "Rogers" Leonard, Assistant Vice President and Program Leader, LSU AgCenter

8:30-10:00 a.m.

10:00-10:10 a.m. Break
10:10-11:00 a.m. Specialty Crops and Food Hubs Panel Discussion

- **Gary Perkins**, Executive Director, Business Acceleration System, Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance
- **Dr. Durga Poudel**, Professor and Assistant Director, School of Geosciences University of Louisiana-Lafayette

11:00-11:30 a.m. Cultural Tourism

- **Monique Boulet**, CEO, Acadiana Planning Commission

11:30-11:45 a.m. Lunch Served

11:45-1:15 p.m. Community Luncheon

USDA Stronger Economies Together Program
Louisiana Development Ready Communities Program
Community Capacity and Long-Term Recovery Resilience Planning

- **Lee Jones**, Assistant State Director, USDA Rural Development
- **Pat Witty**, Director - Small Business and Community Services, Louisiana Economic Development
- **Tonia Pence**, National Disaster Recovery Support, Community Planning and Capacity Building RSF Field Coordinator, FEMA

1:15-5:00 p.m. Business

1:15-3:00 p.m. Small Business Assistance Panel Discussion

- **Michael Ricks**, State Director, U.S. Small Business Administration
- **Heidi Melancon**, Director, Louisiana Small Business Development Center, University of Louisiana - Lafayette
- **Dr. Michael Dunaway**, Director, National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies Institute, University of Louisiana - Lafayette
- **Sherrie Mullins**, Program Manager, Louisiana Procurement Technical Center

3:00-3:15 p.m. Break

3:15-4:30 p.m. State and Federal Contracting Opportunities