



- [Student Leadership Council](#) ▶
- [Ragin Recognition](#) ▶
- [Lead UL Facebook](#)
- [Emerging Leader Summit](#)
- [Ragin' Leadership Academy](#)
- [Who's Who](#) ▶

[Home](#) » [Leadership](#)

## Emerging Leader Summit

The Emerging Leader Summit is an excellent opportunity for freshmen and sophomore leaders. Participants will build a foundation of leadership development from the very beginning of their career at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Participants are challenged to think beyond positional leadership and are given the opportunity to explore what leadership means to them, to assess their personal behavioral style, and to tackle topics such as personal values, happiness, branding, body language, and communication. Participants leave with a clearer understanding of how they define leadership and why. Participants also interact with new student leaders from across campus, developing relationships and a network that stretches across UL Lafayette.

Emerging Leader Summit is a student developed program that will take place from 2:00 pm – 8:00 pm on **Friday, November 2, 2018**, beginning at Bayou Bijou Theatre in the Student Union at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. We will select participants we feel will benefit from this program and can also contribute knowledge and experience to their fellow participants. **Registration is open now!** If selected, conference fee is \$25. **Check out pictures from previous years [HERE!](#)**



**Keynote Speaker: Stan Pearson, II**



Stan Pearson, II is an author, bilingual speaker, motivational comedian, and host. His presentations on diversity, inclusion, and leadership are entertaining, educating, and interactive from start to finish. Stan's humor and charisma accentuate his ability to connect with audiences and create a positive and energetic experience. He has spoken with multiple groups and institutions across the United States, Mexico, British Virgin Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Canada. Organizations who have utilized his services include Student Life, Orientation, and Multi-cultural offices, Greek Life conference planners, and businesses in myriad fields. Stan's accolades include being named APCA Speaker of the Year and *Campus Activities Magazine's* Diversity Artist of the Year Nominee.

## **Small Group Presenters:**

### **Kimberly Billeaudeau**



Kimberly Billeaudeau's presentation is titled *Power Up and Stand Out*.

Kimberly Billeaudeau currently serves as the Director of Career Services at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She has been in the Career Services profession for over fourteen years. Kimberly is involved in several local, regional and national associations for Career Services professionals and employers and is a past President of the Louisiana Association of Colleges & Employers. She provides training to students, alumni and employers on job search preparation, interviewing techniques, recruiting strategies and professional etiquette.

In addition, Kimberly currently serves as the Faculty Advisor for Delta Delta Delta Sorority and the Disney College Program Student Alumni Association. She also serves on the university's Student Organization Committee.

### **Ruben Henderson**

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**Session Title: *Unlocking Your Leadership Potential: Toy Box Edition***

This interactive, engaging presentation will showcase, highlight, and teach leaders how they can return to the basic nature of quality leadership by unlocking practical lessons from their childhood toys. The most important leadership lessons we are taught as kids come from the toys we played with. Join us as we dive into the toy box for this hands-on workshop.

*Learning outcomes:*

- Identify and discuss three (3) characteristics of leadership associated with toys
- Locate the shiniest "toy" in your leadership toy box
- Develop three (3) improvement strategies for the leadership "toys" that need a little love

Ruben Henderson currently serves as Assistant Director of Student Activities and advisor for the University Program Council (UPC) in the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership (OSEL) at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He received his undergraduate degree in Marketing and Legal Studies from the B.I. Moody III College of Business and is currently pursuing his Masters of Business Administration at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He serves on numerous boards and committees on campus and in the community, including the Black Faculty Staff Association (BFSA) serving as the Immediate Past President, and the Christiana Smith African American Alumni Chapter serving as the Vice President of Special Events.

Ruben was a recent recipient of the Dean of Community Service Excellence in Service Award at UL Lafayette, and also received the Outstanding Mid-Level Professional of the Year Award from the Louisiana Association of College and University Student Personnel Administration (LACUSPA). He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated. He also currently serves in LACUSPA as the Four-Year Institutional Representative and is the proud advisor of the Black Male Leadership Association (BMLA). He is a graduate of Leadership Lafayette Class XXIX (29) and serves on the Board of Directors for the705, an organization for Young Leaders in Acadiana seeking to grow professionally and personally by participating in a variety of learning and leadership development opportunities. Ruben also serves on the board of directors for Mile Perret Cancer Services (MPCS), a comprehensive resource center helping individuals fight, survive and live with cancer.

**Skyra Rideaux**





Skyra Rideaux is a first generation college graduate and an alumna of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations. Her purpose, passions, and pursuits are with being civically engaged and community driven. She is a firm believer in the philosophy of servant leadership and the development and edification of people and communities. It is her personal mission to help community members, specifically those who are disadvantaged and under-resourced, to achieve their greatest potential through education, empowerment and access to opportunities.

Skyra has served as the Executive Director of Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic, and as the Events and Public Relations Manager of Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise (LITE). Skyra has partnered with several community members and leaders to create, support and lead initiatives such as having black men dress in suits to greet students on the first day of class at Lafayette Middle School, to facilitating the region's first Gulf Coast Young Professionals Summit. She has been recognized as an Acadiana Top 20 under-40 award honoree, is a graduate of Leadership Lafayette Class XXVIII (28), and is a proud veteran of the United States Navy.

### **Dr. Caryn Winters**



Dr. Winters's presentation is titled *Communication Strategies for Projecting a Positive Ethos*.

Dr. Caryn Winters is a native of New Iberia, LA. She received her Bachelor's degree from Loyola University New Orleans, where she had dual majors in Political Science and Media Studies. As a Jesuit institution founded upon social justice and servant leadership, Loyola encouraged its students to be people with and for others. Dr. Winters deeply internalized this call to service, and joined the AmeriCorps program as a VISTA, or Volunteer In Service To America, where she worked as a community organizer in one of the most economically disadvantaged areas of Fort Worth, Texas.

Following her service, Dr. Winters pursued her Masters of Science in Interpersonal Communication at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. After leaving UL, Dr. Winters attended The Pennsylvania State University where she earned her PhD in Communications. During her time at Penn State, Dr. Winters developed academic interests in media literacy, cultural studies, civic engagement, and the interrelationship among democracy, higher education, and the meaning of good work. Her research interests came together in her dissertation, entitled: *The Primacy of Principles: Exploring Journalism Educators' Democratic Imperative to Do Good Work*. Dr. Winters considers it a distinct honor to have the opportunity to return to UL Lafayette and the Department of Communication, where she serves as an Assistant Professor of Organizational Communication. Dr. Winters teaches courses that include Leadership Communication, Interpersonal Communication, Training and Development, and Communication Consultation.

She is the adviser for the National Association for Black Journalists and the Organizational Communication Association.

### **Michael Johnson**



Michael Johnson's presentation is titled *Leadership at Work*.

Michael Johnson is a native of Eunice, Louisiana, and graduated from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (1979) with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, and received a Master of Science in Telecommunication from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2002. As a Telecommunications and Industrial Automation Systems Engineer, Michael has worked across the western and central U.S.; he has also co-founded several companies, including Integrated Controls, Inc. (ICON) and Techneaux Technology Services, LLC.

When not engaged in leadership and management activities, Michael enjoys spending time with his wife of 43 years, 4 children, and 10 grandchildren, as well as playing music or riding his bike.

## Conference Coordinators

### Andrew Albritton



Andrew Albritton, a senior majoring in Economics / Legal Studies, is from the small town of Morgan City, Louisiana. He graduated valedictorian in 2013, and since starting at UL has gotten involved in a wide variety of campus organizations, including Sigma Chi fraternity, the Interfraternity Council, Student Orientation Staff, Student Leadership Council, The Big Event, and the Student Government Association. He credits the Emerging Leader's Summit, which he first attended in 2015 as an inductee of the Alpha class, with helping him to develop the leadership and networking skills necessary to be a successful student leader.

### Benjamin Butler





Benjamin Butler is a junior majoring in Mass Communications, with a concentration in broadcasting. Born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Benjamin joined the UL family in Fall 2015. Since then, he has become involved in numerous organizations, both on and off campus. He has most recently served as a Summer Vista with AmeriCorps, and is President of the Black Male Leadership Association (BMLA). Benjamin has also been involved with the Student Leadership Council, Sigma Gamma Mu, the Black Student Union, and the L'Acadian Yearbook. Benjamin first attended the Emerging Leader Summit (ELS) as a sophomore in 2016, and is excited to be returning as a coordinator for the Fall 2017 conference.

### **Benjamin Messner**



Benjamin Messner is a junior at UL Lafayette, majoring in English. The Opelousas, Louisiana native enrolled at UL in Fall 2015. Ben has been highly involved on campus: he served two years on the Student Orientation Staff (the second year as a member of the Leadership Team). Ben currently represents the College of Liberal Arts as a Student Government Association senator, in addition to serving on the Student Leadership Council, volunteering as a Peer Mentor, and is an active member of the Lambda Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity, for whom he advocates for chapter alumni as Tribune. As a fraternity delegate, Ben attended the 2017 Huntsman Horizons Leadership Summit in Salt Lake City, Utah. Ben is also an active member of UL's Honors Program, having held the positions of Freshman and Sophomore Representative on the Honors Board. Ben attended 2016 Emerging Leader Summit (ELS) as a member of the Gamma Class, and is very honored to return as a 2017 Conference Coordinator.

### **Katie Wappel**





Katie Wappel is a senior at UL Lafayette, majoring in Business Informatics. From Springfield, Illinois, Katie came to UL in 2014 and has since joined multiple campus organizations. She is currently a member and Chapter President of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority, Senate Chair in UL's Student Government Association (SGA), and a member of the Student Leadership Organization. Katie has also been part of the UL Honors Board, the Association for Future Alumnae, National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), and an officer for the Panhellenic Council. She attended the 2015 Emerging Leader Summit (ELS) as a member of the Alpha class and came back as a facilitator at the Spring 2016 ELS, an experience which has helped her grow as both a person and as a leader on campus. In Fall 2016, Katie served as an ELS Conference Coordinator, a role she is happy to be returning to in 2017!

**Sponsored By:**

Interfraternity Council, Office of Student Engagement and Leadership, Student Leadership Council, UL Lafayette Alumni Association and Student Government Association.



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