



## UNTAPPED TALENT 2.0: *READY TO WORK!*

### 2025 Summit Schedule At A Glance

#### November 6th

8:30 AM IMMERSIVE SITE VISITS TO LCIW & RCC

4:00 PM GUMBO DEBRIEFING SESSION

#### November 7th

7:15 AM REGISTRATION OPENS

7:30 AM COFFEE & CONVERSATION NETWORKING

8:45 AM OPENING GENERAL SESSION

9:00 AM OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

9:30 AM KEYNOTE REACTION PANEL

10:00 AM INSTRUCTIONS AND TRANSITION TO SOLUTION SESSIONS

10:25 AM SOLUTION BREAK OUT SESSION 1 - *CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION*

11:30 AM SOLUTION BREAK OUT SESSION 2 - *PROGRAM QUALITY & ALIGNMENT*

12:30 PM "CHAT & CHEW" LUNCH SESSION

1:40 PM SOLUTION BREAK OUT SESSION 3 - *BARRIERS & OPPORTUNITIES*

2:45 PM STATE ACTION PLANNING

4:00 PM NEXT STEPS & CLOSING





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Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### NOPSI HOTEL NEW ORLEANS

317 Baronne St.  
New Orleans, LA 70112



### SCHEDULE

#### DAY ONE ~ Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

##### Immersive Site Visits to Postsecondary Education in Prison Programs

Day One of the Untapped Talent 2.0 Summit offers participants a powerful, behind-the-wall experience at two of Louisiana's correctional facilities: **Rayburn Correctional Center (RCC)** for men and the **Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW)**.

Invited guests will witness postsecondary education programs in action and engage directly with students and educators who are transforming lives through learning. These immersive visits offer a rare opportunity to observe the realities, challenges, and successes of postsecondary education in prison firsthand, laying the groundwork for informed, solution-focused conversations throughout the convening.

8:00 AM	Participants Meet in Hotel Lobby for Departure to Correctional Facilities	
9:00 AM	Depart NOPSI for RCC and LCIW	
11:00 AM	Arrival to RCC and LWIC – Check-In and Security Procedures	
12:00 – 2:00 PM Site Visits	Rayburn Correctional Center (RCC) Site Visit Lead: <b>Dr. Stephanie Gaskill</b> Associate Director – Jesuit Social Research Institute, Loyola University New Orleans  Postsecondary Partners: Northshore Technical Community College; Ashland University; Loyola University New Orleans    [Additional Information provided separately]	LA Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW) Site Visit Lead: <b>Dr. Marko Salvaggio</b> Director   Professor of Practice – School of Professional Advancement, Tulane University  Postsecondary Partners: Operation Restoration; Tulane University; Ashland University; New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary    [Additional Information provided separately]
2:00 – 4:00 PM	Buses Return from Facilities to NOPSI Hotel	
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Untapped Talent 2.0 – <b>Immersive Site Visits Debrief</b> ~ Room: Public Service Restaurant - NOPSI	

(On your own for the evening)





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### DAY TWO ~ Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

#### Solution Starters

Day Two of the Untapped Talent Summit 2.0 is designed to inspire, inform, and ignite action. A provocative keynote and state-level reaction panel will kick off the morning, followed by “Solution-Starter” breakout sessions. These working groups, focused on Data, Postsecondary, Workforce, and Policy, will help shape next year’s strategy for Louisiana’s Fair Chance Collaborative, including the State SHEEO Team.

7:15 AM	Registration Opens		
7:30 AM	Networking Coffee & Conversation (Continental Breakfast provided) ~ Dryades Foyer		
8:45 AM	Opening General Session ~ Dryades Ballroom		
	<p>In 2023, the Louisiana Board of Regents launched the inaugural <b>Untapped Talent Summit</b> to spotlight the experiences of formerly incarcerated individuals and elevate innovative programs improving outcomes for justice-impacted learners. Separately, the <b>Louisiana Education in Prison Task Force</b> released a 2024 report detailing the current landscape of postsecondary education in prison and outlining bold recommendations for systemic improvement.</p> <p>In 2025, Louisiana was selected by the <b>State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) Association</b> to join a five-state learning community focused on deepening collaboration across higher education, corrections, and community partners.</p> <p>With these efforts as a foundation, <b>Untapped Talent 2.0: Ready to Work!</b> aims to explore the Task Force recommendations and lay the groundwork for a coordinated, high-quality postsecondary education system within Louisiana’s correctional facilities.</p>		
9:00 AM	Keynote Address		
	<p><b>Former Representative Michael G. Curcio (Tennessee), Founder   Principal</b> Ouroboros Strategies, LLC  <b>Mr. Jared Campbell, Board Chair</b> Tennessee Higher Education Initiative</p> <p><i>Former Tennessee State Representative Michael G. Curcio and Jared Campbell will share insights on Tennessee’s model approach to postsecondary education for incarcerated learners, including its commitment to offering education and mentoring access in every state prison. Their remarks will highlight cross-sector collaboration among legislators, corrections officials, business leaders, and nonprofit partners like the Tennessee Higher Education Initiative. But it’s not all academics and data modeling. Curcio and Jared will tell how a combination of good public policy, hard work, and saying “yes” to a seemingly impossible project paved the way for an unlikely meeting in Tennessee’s oldest prison on the farm in Hickman County. Don’t miss it!</i></p> <p>Links: <a href="https://governorsinitiative.org/vmi">https://governorsinitiative.org/vmi</a>   <a href="https://www.thei.org/programs/tpcc">https://www.thei.org/programs/tpcc</a></p>		
9:30 AM	Reaction Panel	<p>Mary Beth Derrickson Louisiana Association of Business &amp; Industry</p> <p>Senator Rick Edmonds Louisiana State Legislature</p> <p>Dr. Kim Hunter Reed Commissioner of Higher Education</p> <p>Facilitated by: Brace B. “Trey” Godfrey, III – Senior Vice President, Greater Baton Rouge Economic Partnership</p>	
10:00 AM	Instructions for and Transition to the Solution-Starter Breakout Sessions		
	<p>Each session is anchored in the SHEEO initiative and kicks off with a <b>15-minute “TED-style” talk</b> by our Solution Starters - experts speaking on real issues. After the talk, <b>you will have 40 minutes</b> to help shape next steps. Each group will generate <b>actionable ideas</b> to fuel the agenda of the working groups that will meet throughout 2026. If new working group ideas emerge organically, they are welcome! This year, we are also honored to have our <b>Faculty of Experts</b> joining the rooms. These are partners from <b>the Vera Institute of Justice, SHEEO Association, Jobs for the Future’s Center for Justice and Economic Advancement, Ascendium Education Group, the Teamer Strategy Group</b>, and others. They are here to enrich our conversations and expand our impact. Let’s get ready to work!</p>		

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10:25 – 11:20 AM	<b>Breakout Session 1 ~ Cross-Sector Collaboration</b>		
	Solution-Starter 1A Breakout 1  Room: <b>Poydras</b>	<b>Improving Institutional Data Infrastructure: Data Collection, Analysis and Sharing</b> Solution-Starter Session Manager: <a href="#">Kim Kirkpatrick</a> , Board of Regents  <i>To ensure quality data reach the statewide longitudinal data system, individual institutions of higher education must ensure that they are properly collecting, identifying, and storing information about the students they enroll in correctional facilities. Ithaka S+R recently published a <a href="#">report</a> on its multi-year research initiative exploring the current landscape of data use in the higher-education-in-prison field and identified barriers to building a more comprehensive and sustainable data infrastructure. At the same time, Loyola University New Orleans is developing a resource for higher-education-in-prison program leaders to ensure their institutions are correctly collecting incarcerated student data as part of the American Institutes for Research Higher Education in Prison Technical Assistance cohort. Louisiana colleges and universities are invited to learn more and develop practical solutions to data challenges.</i>	
	TED Talk Speakers	<b>Dr. Stephanie Gaskill</b> <a href="#">Loyola University New Orleans</a>	
	Solution-Starter 1B Breakout 1  Room: <b>Magazine</b>	<b>Improving State Data Infrastructure: Data Collection, Analysis and Sharing</b> Solution-Starter Session Manager: <a href="#">Dr. Marko Salvaggio</a> , Tulane University  <i>In 2024, the Louisiana Education in Prison Task Force identified a critical need to “improve data infrastructure for robust data collection, analysis, and sharing,” especially related to post-release education and employment outcomes. Reliable data in this area have historically been difficult to obtain.</i>  <i>In response to a 2023 legislative mandate, Louisiana established its first longitudinal data system, <b>LA FIRST</b> (Louisiana’s Foundational Integrated Research System for Transformation), housed at the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center. The Blanco Center published early findings in April 2025, including a report linking education, employment, adult corrections, and juvenile justice.</i>  <i>Strategic partnerships with the Blanco Center and LA FIRST offer Louisiana an unprecedented opportunity to track and improve outcomes for incarcerated learners, both pre- and post-release.</i>	
	TED Talk Speakers	<b>Dr. Stephen Barnes</b> <a href="#">Blanco Center</a>	<b>Tracy Babineaux</b> <a href="#">DPSC</a>
	Solution Starter 1C Breakout 1  Room: <b>Dryades</b>	<b>Aligning Workforce and Programming with Economic Opportunity</b> Solution-Starter Session Manager: <a href="#">Dr. Belinda Wheeler</a> , Vera Institute  <i>Matching prison education to Louisiana’s high-wage, high-demand jobs remains complex due to barriers faced by system-impacted individuals during post-release. A recent Vera Institute report helps bridge the gap by identifying “good jobs” for people with records. These are jobs that pay well and avoid major legal/licensing roadblocks. Louisiana is now localizing these data by Regional Labor Market Area to ensure programs offered inside correctional facilities lead to real employment opportunities upon release.</i>  <i>The goal: Smarter program selection, stronger regional partnerships, and clear pathways to mobility that help Louisiana meet its attainment and workforce goals.</i>	
	TED Talk Speaker	<b>Dr. Marcus Kondkar</b> <a href="#">Loyola University New Orleans</a>	<b>Colleen Clark</b> <a href="#">Loyola University New Orleans</a>

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11:30 AM – 12:25 PM	<b>Breakout Session 2 ~ Program Quality and Alignment</b>			
	Solution-Starter 2A Breakout 2  Room: <b>Poydras</b>	<b>Providing Technology and Digital Skills for Returning Citizens</b> Solution-Starter Session Manager: <b>Dr. Chris Yandle</b> , Board of Regents  <i>Today's economy requires digital fluency, but incarcerated individuals often face steep barriers to gaining or maintaining those skills. Security restrictions limit access to current technology, even as digital skills are essential for education and employment, including high-growth fields like IT. Louisiana has emerged as a national leader in advancing secure, innovative solutions inside carceral settings. Through collaboration among state agencies, correctional educators, and workforce partners, the state is scaling models that safely equip justice-involved individuals with the tools and training needed for success.</i>		
	<i>TED Talk Speakers</i>	<b>Ben Lowenkron</b> WorkReady U, LCTCS	<b>Phong Allen Nguyen</b> NOBTS Alum/Delgado Student	<b>Emmy Hicks</b> ConnectLA
	Solution-Starter 2B Breakout 2  Room: <b>Magazine</b>	<b>Tailoring Student Services During Incarceration &amp; Upon Release</b> Solution-Starter Session Manager: <b>Antonio Williams</b> , Board of Regents  <i>The Louisiana Education in Prison Task Force found that the leading reason incarcerated students discontinue their studies is "personal reasons"—not discipline or transfers. This highlights the need for more tailored student support. What challenges do learners face inside, and how can institutions proactively address them through services and peer mentorship? Looking ahead, how might Louisiana adapt a "veteran-friendly-type" campus designation to support formerly incarcerated students and ensure they have a fair chance at success. Also, what can we learn from other states already offering reentry-aligned services?</i>		
	<i>TED Talk Speakers</i>	<b>Stephanie King</b> Tulane Alum	<b>Nicole Hendricks &amp; Norma Hairston</b> Western Mass CORE	<b>Deidre Thomas</b> Tulane Student
	Solution-Starter 2C Breakout 2  Room: <b>Dryades</b>	<b>Expanding Opportunities in Local Facilities</b> Solution-Starter Session Manager: <b>Kelsey Osman</b> , Department of Public Safety and Corrections  <i>Over half (53%) of individuals in Louisiana Department of Public Safety &amp; Corrections custody are housed in local facilities, where access to postsecondary education remains limited. Yet scalable, successful models exist, like Louisiana Delta Community College's (LDCC's) welding programs at Ouachita and Riverbend Correctional Centers. As the first Louisiana institution to receive Prison Education Program (PEP) status from the U.S. Department of Education, LDCC exemplifies the power of strategic collaboration among community colleges, local facilities, and employers to deliver career-aligned education to justice-impacted learners.</i>		
	<i>TED Talk Speakers</i>	<b>Nathan Hall</b> LDCC	<b>Amber Bowlen</b> Ouachita Correctional Center	

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12:30 PM	<b>Lunch Session</b> ~ Dryades Ballroom
	<p><b>Chat and Chew ~ Continuing the Conversation Over Lunch</b>  <a href="#">Sharing from the Solution-Starter Sessions</a></p> <p><i>Use this lunch break as an opportunity to digest more than just food! Share your reflections from the morning's Solution-Starter Breakout Sessions, exchange ideas, and continue building on the momentum of your group's discussions. Whether you're brainstorming actionable next steps, offering feedback, or simply deepening your network, this time is yours to connect, collaborate, and keep the conversation going. There may be a special feature, so stay tuned...</i></p>

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1:30 PM	<b>Transition to Afternoon Solution-Starter Breakout Session</b>
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1:40 – 2:35 PM	<b>Breakout Session 3 ~ Barriers and Opportunities</b>		
	Solution-Starter 3A  Room: <b>Poydras</b>	<b>Navigating the Higher Education Landscape from the Perspective of Program Leaders</b> Solution-Starter Session Manager: <b>Dr. Heidi Coleman</b> , Operation Restoration  <i>The administration of higher-education-in-prison programs requires balancing the interests of two powerful institutions: colleges and corrections. Listen as two influential program leaders share their experiences navigating these complexities while ensuring that the perspectives of people with lived experience remain at the forefront.</i>	
	<i>TED Talk Speakers</i>	<b>Dr. Brandon L. Warren</b> Lee College Huntsville Center (Texas)	<b>Syrita Steib</b> Operation Restoration
	Solution-Starter 3B  Room: <b>Magazine</b>	<b>Advancing Policy to Strengthen Fair Chance Education and Employment</b> Solution-Starter Session Manager: <b>Dr. AcQueena Grant</b> , LA Community & Technical College System  <i>For both educators and employers, the policy landscape is shifting daily. Listen as national experts share their perspective on current changes and offer guidance for how best to leverage present opportunities to serve the interests of learners and career-seekers with records.</i>	
	<i>TED Talk Speakers</i>	<b>Dr. Rachel Burns</b> SHEEO	<b>Brandi Mandato</b> JFF
	Solution-Starter 3C  Room: <b>Dryades</b>	<b>Opening Access to Work-Based Learning</b> Solution-Starter Session Manager: <b>Dr. Zackeus D. Johnson</b> , Board of Regents  <i>Work-based learning is a powerful tool to prepare students for success after release, but incarcerated learners have historically lacked access to these opportunities. Across the country, innovative models – both in-person and virtual – are bridging education and employment inside correctional settings. Louisiana can adapt these approaches to equip learners with hands-on experience while giving employers early access to talent. Additionally, as higher education embeds WBL more deeply into postsecondary curricula, there is a growing opportunity to align programming inside with real workforce needs outside.</i>	
	<i>TED Talk Speakers</i>	<b>Randall Liberty</b> Maine DOC	<b>Dr. Mara Sanchez</b> Alliance of Higher Education in Prison (AHEC)  <b>Shaun Libby</b> Jobs for the Future

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2:45 – 4:00 PM	<b>Closing Session – State Action Planning, Next Steps &amp; Wrap-Up ~ Dryades Ballroom</b>
	<p><i>In this final session, state teams will share high-level report-outs from each Solution-Starter session and begin organizing proposed ideas into concrete next steps. Participants will identify cross-cutting priorities, translate ideas into actionable goals, and form working groups to carry the momentum forward into 2026.</i></p> <p><i>Sign-ups for ongoing collaboration will be available, with participants encouraged to articulate their contributions and commit to continued engagement. The session will close with shared reflections and a clear roadmap for the year ahead.</i></p>























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### Untapped Faculty of Experts

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM	Untapped Faculty Lounge
Strategy Room: Freret	<p><i>This space is for our <b>Untapped Faculty of Experts</b>. The Faculty Lounge is a comfortable zone to recharge, review your materials, and connect with fellow facilitators between sessions. The lounge may also serve as the film site for Untapped Interviews.</i></p> <p><i>Whether you need a moment to prepare, check your notes, network with colleagues, share a perspective, or just store your luggage, the Lounge is the go-to spot throughout the day for Untapped's Faculty of Experts. Thank you for your service.</i></p> <p><i>Enjoy! You're helping to lead the charge, and this space supports you as you do it.</i></p> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>SHEEO</b> State Higher Education Executive Officers Association</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>JFF</b></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>ALLIANCE</b> FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN PRISON</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Vera</b> INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>ATLO</b></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>REGENTS</b></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>ITHAKA S-R</b></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>UNIVERSITY OF <b>LOUISIANA</b> LAFAYETTE</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Operation</b> RESTORATION</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>THEI</b></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>LOYOLA</b> UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>JSRI</b></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>western mass <b>CORE</b></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Pathways Through Education Power Rooted in Community</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Title Sponsor</p>  <p><b>Ascendium</b><sup>®</sup> <i>Elevating opportunity</i></p> </div> </div>

