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**LAGCOE to host Education & Innovation Summit  
October 26-27, 2016 at Cajundome Convention Center**

**LAFAYETTE, LA** –LAGCOE continues to work to bring value to the energy industry even during economically difficult times by hosting the LAGCOE Education and Innovation Summit – a two-day summit featuring informational, motivational, and non-technical sessions geared to a variety of interest levels within the energy industry.

Part of LAGCOE’s mission is to foster the energy workforce pipeline. This is equally as important during tough times as it is during prosperous times. For a successful, sustainable industry, the pipeline of future, present and retiring workers requires a balance.

"The summit targets all age groups from eighth grade students who are the next generation of innovators and leaders, to seasoned professionals who have brought the energy industry to where it is today," said Angela Cring, LAGCOE executive director.

To impact young students, LAGCOE is partnering with the GEAR UP program to provide Lafayette Parish School System’s eighth grade GEAR UP students with a unique learning opportunity. GEAR UP is a federally funded grant initiative that provides students with the skills, access, preparation and information needed to enter and succeed in post-secondary education. The GEAR UP students will rotate through multiple interactive learning stations including the Mobile Oilfield Learning Unit, MOLU, training simulators and educational resources. MOLU is an engaging traveling exhibit which features learning centers with hands-on activities designed to educate students about energy and the technologies and sciences involved with the oil and gas industry.

The LAGCOE Student Paper Competition allows students from Louisiana universities to showcase their latest research projects to a panel of judges. University research is a key component to developing the next innovations with industry application. Anyone interested in hearing the students present their findings is welcome to attend this session.

V.P. of Drilling for Chesapeake Energy Corporation, David Bert, will address the importance of innovation in the energy industry especially in a down energy economy at the Energy Innovator’s Keynote Luncheon. The luncheon will immediately be followed by the highly anticipated Energy Innovators Pitch Challenge, a “shark tank” style competition where five selected companies will pitch an innovative idea or business to potential investors in front of the audience. LAGCOE continues its partnership with INNOV8 Acadiana to propel the next industry innovations by linking ideas and investors.

“Great innovations come out of hard economic times,” said Kenny Crouch, owner of Pressure Control Specialties, LLC and current LAGCOE Chairman of the Board. “We are optimistic that some of these sessions will spark great innovation in the energy industry.”

DRILLS, created and facilitated by EXCELERANT, will showcase the value of seasoned professionals mentoring the upcoming leaders of the energy industry. The session will engage current leaders of the oil and gas industry in conversation about ensuring a pipeline of prepared, qualified senior and executive oil and gas leaders.

For those interested in entering or re-entering the energy industry, LAGCOE will host the Career Development and Networking Expo, presented by The Daily Advertiser, which will educate attendees about best practices for job searching and other useful career development skills. Sessions will include resume review, interview tips and understanding the job application process from human resource professionals. Pre-registration for this free event is required for admittance.

Not all energy industry employees are technical. ‘The Life of a Well’ luncheon, presented and sponsored by Smith Mason & Co., will be a non-technical explanation of the life cycle of a well, targeted to the knowledge level of non-technical energy industry employees and those who want to understand more about the various phases of oil and gas exploration and production.

Visit [LAGCOE.com/summit](http://LAGCOE.com/summit) for detailed information about each session and to register or purchase tickets. Registration will open Wednesday, September 21, 2016.

**Schedule of Events:**

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

- 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – LAGCOE Student Paper Competition
- 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Student Engagement in Energy
- 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Energy Innovation Luncheon + Pitch Challenge
  - 11:30 a.m. – lunch served
  - 12:00 p.m. – presentation
  - 1:00 p.m. – pitch challenge begins

Thursday, October 27, 2016

- 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – DRILLS
- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Career Development and Networking Expo presented by The Daily Advertiser
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Life of a Well Luncheon presented and sponsored by Smith Mason & Co.

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LAGCOE is a nonprofit energy industry organization focused on educational programs and a technical exposition & conference, whose mission is to cultivate economic growth of the energy industry by facilitating domestic & global business development and fostering the energy workforce pipeline. LAGCOE 2017 will be held October 24-26, 2017 at The Cajundome & Convention Center in Lafayette, La. Learn more at [www.LAGCOE.com](http://www.LAGCOE.com).