

# Top 100

UL Lafayette ranks among nation's elite public research institutions

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT Lafayette is one of the top 100 public research universities in the nation, a new report by The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government shows. The institute is the public policy research arm of the State University of New York.

“A New Paradigm for Economic Development,” released in March by the Rockefeller Institute, describes the growing role colleges and universities play in economic development and community revitalization. It ranks public research universities and state-wide public systems.

UL Lafayette is third in Louisiana and 99th in the country. Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (New Orleans and Shreveport) is 95th in the nation. LSU, including the main campus, Pennington Biomedical Research Center and LSU AgCenter, is first in the state and 45th in the nation.

According to the report, UL Lafayette attracted \$47.3 million in research funding in 2006, while LSU Health Sciences Center (New Orleans and Shreveport) received \$79.9 million and the LSU campus obtained \$246 million.

Only UL Lafayette, LSU in Baton Rouge and LSU Health Sciences Center are cited in the Rockefeller Institute study as top public research universities in Louisiana.

Total research dollars of all three institutions – \$373.3 million – earned Louisiana 27th place in the country.

An analysis of National Science Foundation research and development

expenditures by public universities in Louisiana in 2008 ranks UL Lafayette as the third highest, with a total of \$58.6 million. LSU Baton Rouge is first, with \$136 million in total expenditures. LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans is second with \$59.5 million. Pen-

a long history of using research as an economic development tool.

Its University Research Park, for instance, was established after Louisiana's oil-dependent economy faltered in the mid-1980s. Today, the research park has more than 575 employees and an annual payroll of more than \$36 million.

One of its tenants, the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise, was created specifically as an economic development tool through a partnership formed by the university, State of Louisiana and the Lafayette Economic Development Authority.

Dr. Steve Landry, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at UL Lafayette, said the university's commitment to research is evident in the caliber of faculty it hires and its reputation for involving students in research projects. “Our goal is always to hire faculty members who excel at research *and* teaching. We want our students to benefit directly from the research our faculty is

conducting,” he said.

Landry noted that UL Lafayette is also dedicated to using research to help solve real-world problems. He cited the BeauSoleil Louisiana Solar Home as an example.

Last year, UL Lafayette was one of only 20 universities in the world chosen to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon in Washington, D.C. Its BeauSoleil Home, designed and built by UL Lafayette architecture, engineering and business administration students and advisors, earned two first-place awards. ■

University	Total	Percentage
Louisiana State University	\$136,000,000	33.8
LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans	59,500,000	14.8
<b>UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE</b>	<b>58,667,000</b>	<b>14.6</b>
Pennington Biomedical Research Center	40,500,000	10.1
LSU Health Sciences Center – Shreveport	33,458,000	8.3
UNO	24,800,000	6.2
Louisiana Tech University	19,406,000	4.8
University of Louisiana at Monroe	16,997,000	4.2
Southern University and A&M College all campuses	6,701,000	1.7
Southeastern Louisiana University	2,302,000	.6
Northwestern State University	1,175,000	.3
Nicholls State University	841,000	.2
McNeese State University	691,000	.2
Grambling State University	643,000	.2
LSU Shreveport	600,000	.1
Southern University New Orleans	197,000	0
<b>Total R &amp; D Expenditures</b>	<b>\$402,478,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

nington Biomedical Research Center is fourth, with \$40.5 million, followed by LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, with \$33.4 million.

The University of New Orleans is ranked sixth, with \$24.8 million in total expenditures, while Louisiana Tech is seventh, with \$19.4 million.

The Carnegie Foundation has designated UL Lafayette as a Research University – High Research Activity. Others in that category include Baylor, Clemson and Auburn.

Dr. Joseph Savoie, president of UL Lafayette, noted that the university has