

2026 FUEL COALITION MEETING

MARCH 18, 2026

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Welcome

Robert Twilley, V.P., Research and Economic Development, LSU

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Plenary Session and Strategic and Implementation Plan

Michael Mazzola, Ashwith Chilvery, Stephen Loy, Girard Melancon, Lacy McManus

11:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Break

11:30 – 12:30 a.m.

Conversation with Members of the Governance Board

Moderator: Michael Mazzola

Panelists: Chandler LeBeouf, Daniela Mainardi, Kimberly Gramm, Dave Smith

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Lacy McManus

Providing workforce and education partners a better understanding of FUEL's current workforce development priorities and key performance indicators.

Attendees will learn about the new organizational structure of FUEL's workforce development partner engagement and how to participate in requests for proposals for future competitive funding opportunities; hear from past subaward winners about their successes and challenges advancing energy workforce; and engage with FUEL's statewide network.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Girard Melancon

Building collaboration with community partners and ensuring communities are well informed, engaged, and positioned to participate in the future of Louisiana's energy economy.

Attendees will learn about FUEL's approach to leveraging opportunities with active-duty service members, veterans, and military families and how to continue FUEL's dialogue with faith-based organizations, multiply regional development through collaboration, and engage FUEL's network to identify next steps for engaging in the FUEL ecosystem.

USE-INSPIRED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Ashwith Chilvery

Providing Use-Inspired Research and Development partners a better understanding of current research priorities and key performance indicators.

Attendees will learn about the Technical Research Advisory Council (TRAC) and how to participate in requests for proposals for future competitive funding opportunities; hear from past subaward winners about their experience solving use-inspired research challenges; and engage FUEL's statewide network.

TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

Stephen Loy

Providing Entrepreneurial Support Organizations (ESOs) with a clear understanding of FUEL's Founder Support Coalition priorities, participation structure, and performance expectations within the incubator strategic plan.

Attendees will learn how ESOs fit into FUEL's approach to supporting energy technology founders, the three different participation levels, and how to participate in upcoming funding opportunities; share organizational perspectives about coaching, programming, and technical assistance for FUEL-supported companies; and engage FUEL's network to identify next steps for engaging in the FUEL ecosystem.

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Q&A and Networking