

A special honor reserved for ME alumni with an exceptional level of achievement. An opportunity for us to bring them back home, hear their career experiences, and induct them into the Alumni Achievement Lecture Club to stay with LSU for ever.

THE MECHANICAL ENGINEERING ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT LECTURE

4:00pm, Friday, April 22, 2016

Frank H. Walk Design Presentation Room (140 ELAB)

In 1990, a chance recommendation led Stephen Moret to visit Louisiana and LSU – to try out for the LSU Tiger Band. The son of a single mother in Mississippi, Moret was able to attend LSU thanks to a full scholarship. He describes his experiences at LSU and in LSU's mechanical engineering program as magical and transformational, crediting LSU and his engineering education with positioning him for success in an interesting career, graduate study at Harvard University and at the University of Pennsylvania. In his lecture, Moret will tell his LSU story, as well as present findings from his recent study of linkages between higher education and the labor market in the United States (U.S.). Moret's dissertation explored higher education's role as an on-ramp to the American Dream, a mechanism for reducing income inequality, and a key to enhancing economic competitiveness and states and national growth. In particular, he examined the foundational propositions of the national college degree attainment agenda, evaluating the extent to which higher education consistently delivers its promised outcomes for individuals, states, and the nation. Moret utilized U.S. Census American Community Survey microdata and typical education requirements of occupations published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to quantitatively analyze employment outcomes of college graduates. He placed special focus on the incidence of malemployment (the phenomenon of college graduates working in occupations not requiring college degrees), relationships between undergraduate degree fields and labor market outcomes, and variations across states in the employment outcomes of college graduates. Moret found that the benefits of higher education for individuals and states are highly uneven. For example, about 31% of adults in the labor force with a bachelor's degree are malemployed, a rate that varies by field, educational attainment, race/ethnicity, and age. College earnings premiums generally are far lower for malemployed individuals than for college graduates working in college-level occupations, and they also vary dramatically by state. Moret's research dispelled several myths about higher education and the labor market, such as the notion that malemployment is temporary and that there generally is an insufficient supply of STEM graduates.



ENGINEERING: A LOVE STORY

by

Stephen Moret

President & CEO LSU Foundation

Executive Director LSU Property Foundation

BSME LSU 1995, MBA Harvard Business School 2001,

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From 2008 to 2015, Moret served as secretary of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED), which he transformed into one of America's top state economic development agencies. At LED, he led business development efforts resulting in a diverse array of high-impact projects, such as software/IT centers of CGI, CSC, GE Capital, and IBM, an aircraft assembly facility of Bell Helicopter, and a ConAgra production facility that leverages LSU research. Moret's leadership secured projects that are yielding more than 91,000 jobs and \$62 billion in capital investment. He also established LED FastStart, which The Economist called "probably the most notable statewide workforce-development initiative [in America]." Moret previously served as president and CEO of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber; as management consultant with McKinsey & Company; as public policy fellow with the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana; and assistant to the chancellor of LSU. He was elected student body president at LSU and co-president of the student body at HBS. Moret and his wife, Heather, have four young children – Jackson (11), Samuel (9), Benjamin (7), and Mary Katherine (2).

LSU