

## Website

<https://library.louisiana.edu/collections/digital-archives/digital-exhibits/college-education-academic-showcase/oral-histories>

**University of Louisiana at Lafayette » Edith Garland Dupré Library » Collections » Digital Archives » Digital Exhibits » College of Education Academic Showcase**

## Video file

<https://lafayette.saas.dgicloud.com/islandora/object/ul%3A36/datastream/MP4/view>

**Run-time: 00:02:46** (hh:mm:ss)

## Chapter 13

University Name Change - President Ray Authement

## Transcript

**Title Card:** How will the name change to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette affect the future of the University and the College of Education?

**Dr. Ray Authement – President:** Well, I think it's all about address. The address of the University is not right. Too many times we've been turned down, either by faculty or by funding agencies, simply because they felt it was a wrong address.

As I wrote to someone just yesterday, suppose you send a proposal to Washington on a \$50,000 grant and you're in competition with University of North Carolina or University of Florida, and your name is Southwestern Louisiana. You're not going to get very far because they don't think that you can support a research program over a period of time because you're not looked upon as a major player in your state.

So, you going to see more grants coming in. You're going to see faculty being attracted to this place that perhaps would have turned us down in the past. You're going to see better students coming in, selective admissions, plus the fact that their coming to a university of the state. You're going to see athletic teams accepted and played against or playing against institutions that we haven't played before. And already, you know, I see the change in the attitude of our supporters.

I'm excited about the new Dean in the College of Education, Dean Chance. She comes from the University of Memphis and has had some experiences in areas that the state is looking at that. We met just this week. She and I and Dr. Mirada and discussed the role of technology in education and we believe that because of our computer science and our robotics program that we should be the leader in educational technology. We're going to immediately go to the boards and start working on a Ph.D. program in that area.

Certainly, we see some opportunities to expand the college into areas that we haven't been involved with. Working with disadvantaged groups of taking, you know, advantage of the programs coming out of Washington where they want to improve reading. They want to improve the, I guess, mathematical skills of students. Their money's there and we're moving in that direction.

Name of the University is important here. You get money if people believe that you can do the job, and I think now we can do the job and we can convince them of that.

So, I look for the College of Education to really move ahead now and bring in some tremendous resources that that we haven't had in the past.