

# THE BEACH *at* UNO

A SANDBOX FOR COLLABORATION

20 ANNUAL  
23 REPORT

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

It is with great pleasure we share The Beach's 2023 Annual Report.

As we continue to explore the full potential of our partnership with the University of New Orleans, we are inspired by her students and faculty and the opportunities that arise from academic industry partnerships.

We launched the Wind Scholars Program this year to address the workforce demands in offshore wind energy and strengthened our ties to the industry through our networking arm, LA Wind Energy Hub. Our inaugural Power of Nature event was successful in providing invaluable exposure to renewable energy careers and pathways available through UNO. In our second year of Startup UNO, participation nearly doubled. The accomplishments of our Innovation Division have rapidly surpassed expectations, perfectly aligning with our strategic initiatives.

Our team grew!!! We welcomed Nina Balan, PhD as our Director of Strategic Initiatives and we recruited Cheria Scaffidi to serve as Creative Director and Community Strategist. They have injected our team with an amazing infusion of energy and talent, allowing us to kick our work into new a gear. Shafin Kahn's pioneering efforts in forging connections between UNO and the offshore wind industry have garnered national acclaim, paving the way for significant collaborations. And, of course, we could not be more thrilled to work with UNO's new president Dr. Kathy Johnson who arrived already knowledgeable in the benefits of having a research park and a public private partnership.

Finally, we continue to enjoy a strong occupancy rate! Tenant-UNO collaborations are the secret sauce that makes the Beach the place to work and grow your business. We are enhancing those alliances by building a database of those activities and in 2024 we will host tenant faculty meetings to brainstorm on additional ways to work together. With all of the wonderful things happening at The Beach, just imagine how awesome it is going to be when the walking trails are complete, and you can hang out hang out by the lighthouse with the butterflies.....



**REBECCA CONWELL**



THE UNIVERSITY of  
NEW ORLEANS

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOUNDATION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rebecca Conwell'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

## COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

As the UNO Research and Technology Foundation enthusiastically welcomes UNO's eighth and first female President, Dr. Kathy Johnson, we must also acknowledge former UNO President Dr. John Nicklow's visionary leadership to re-position the public private partnership between The Beach and the University as an asset to increase research, innovation, and economic development.

The transition has been seamless, as President Johnson immediately began expressing her keen understanding of the value in leveraging The Beach's assets and the benefits a strong relationship will bring for faculty, students, and private industry, particularly the tenants at The Beach.



On behalf of the Board of Directors, we want to express our enthusiasm for the opportunities that lie ahead. We remain steadfast in support of the University of New Orleans.

**GARY SOLOMON,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

**The Beach at UNO harnesses the power of a public-private partnership with The University of New Orleans bringing out the best of academia, government, and entrepreneurial endeavors to maximize innovation and shared prosperity.**



### CONTINUED SUCCESS

In 2023, The Beach once again adeptly navigated a challenging office market, demonstrating resilience while maintaining an impressive occupancy rate consistently exceeding 90% throughout the year. This success, achieved in the face of ongoing market challenges, is highlighted by securing long-term leases with several large existing tenants. The Beach's capacity to both attract new tenants and retain existing ones remains rooted in its expanding public-private partnership with the University.

Notably, as The Beach looks ahead, anticipation is high for several transformative campus improvements set to commence in early 2024, signaling a promising and dynamic future

### NEW TENANTS



### PROPERTY UPDATES

- LANDSCAPING UPGRADE WAS APPROVED; WORK WILL BEGIN 1ST QUARTER 2024
- NEXUS WAS APPROVED TO BE THE FIRST TENANT IN THE SANDBOX
- ESKEW DUMEZ RIPPLE WAS THE CHOSEN AS ARCHITECT FOR NEXUS THROUGH AN RFP PROCESS
- FINAL APPROVAL WAS GRANTED FOR COMMON AREA UPGRADES IN TWO LOBBIES + 2ND FLOOR IMPROVEMENTS

### REMARKABLE RENEWAL



Eurofins signed a 10-year renewal for their occupancy of over 53,000 square feet ITC #1, and we are excited to have them as tenants for the foreseeable future

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS & INNOVATION

## GRANT APPLICATIONS

**EDA TECH HUBS CONSORTIUM MEMBER**  
1 OF 32 GROUPS THAT CAN APPLY FOR GRANTS OF UP TO \$75M

**ACCEPTED**

➤ Positioning South Louisiana as the national testbed for offshore wind innovation.

**PONCHARTRAIN RESTORATION PROGRAM**  
PRIME GRANT RECIPIENT OF \$14.7M

**ACCEPTED**

➤ Administering the restoration and preservation of the Lake Pontchartrain basin.

**EDA 2023 BUILD TO SCALE VENTURE CHALLENGE CONSORTIUM MEMBER**  
\$2M

**ACCEPTED**

➤ Utilizing University of New Orleans expertise to support climate tech entrepreneurship.

**DOE WIND CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**  
POTENTIAL: \$6.3M

**PENDING**

**NOAA CLIMATE TECH ACCELERATOR**  
POTENTIAL: TBD

**PENDING**

## COMMERCIALIZATION GRANTS



Funded by the Beach's Innovation fund, these seed grants jumpstart research collaborations between industry partners, Beach community, and UNO faculty with the goal of deepening these partnerships by pursuing future state and federal grants and investment dollars.

## DOE WIND CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



A consortium of 10 academic institutions and corporations working collaboratively on research, technology innovation, workforce development to accelerate the growth of offshore wind in the Gulf of Mexico and beyond.

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

## INCENTIVIZE EXTERNAL RESEARCH



# STARTUP UNO 2023

19 TEAMS APPLIED

7 TEAMS SELECTED

## INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPOSURE

Our second installation of StartupUNO was a major success! Applicants ranged from freshman to graduate students and from numerous fields of study.

- HOTEL, RESTAURANT & TOURISM
- HISTORY
- MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
- ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
- INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
- BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
- BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
- FILM ARTS
- COMPUTER SCIENCES



5 TEAMS MENTORED FOR THE PITCH

Over a three month period finalists participated in seminars where they learned how to hone and sell their idea under the close eye of industry-expert mentors. The culmination was pitch night, where our impressive panel of judges awarded a total of 25k to all winners! Proud of our Privateers and looking forward to next year!



1 WINNER



H2O HALO



THE UNIVERSITY of NEW ORLEANS CAREER SERVICES

NewOrleansBioInnovationCenter  
Helping Louisiana Innovators Bring Ideas to Life

Thanks to our program partners for their support of these UNO students!

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

INCREASE INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPOSURE + EXPERIENCES

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



STEM @ THE UNIVERSITY of NEW ORLEANS



Inspired by District D Council Member Eugene Greene, we hosted over 300 local high school students at UNO for a renewable energy and STEM-focused career fair. In collaboration with 14 industry partners providing insight into the renewables industry, we set the bar for great content and the students left with a better understanding of how their career paths can be nurtured here at UNO.



Thanks to our program partners for their support of these students!





# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



This year we launched the Wind Scholars Program, an initiative designed to propel the career paths of those students interested in offshore wind energy. Our program directly funded scholarships for the curriculum courses that translate to work-ready graduates, and impactfully we matched recipients with internships from leading key industry partners. UNO's swift and resolute call to this industry's demand was pivotal to the program's success. Together, we've translated a vision into a concrete reality that not only dovetails with the climate action aspirations of our city, state, and nation but also establishes a significant workforce development pathway.



With the support of The Beach, the UNO Collegiate Wind Competition Team was accepted to participate in the Department of Energy's national collegiate wind competition. They made it through to phase 2, an impressive start for year one!



Our Innovation Division programming is spearheaded by Shafin Khan, winner of the 2023 Ventus Award for Talent Management in Offshore Wind.





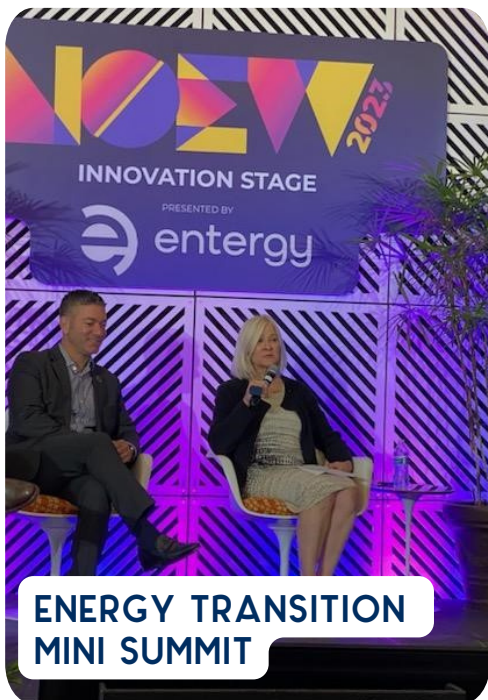
# SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS



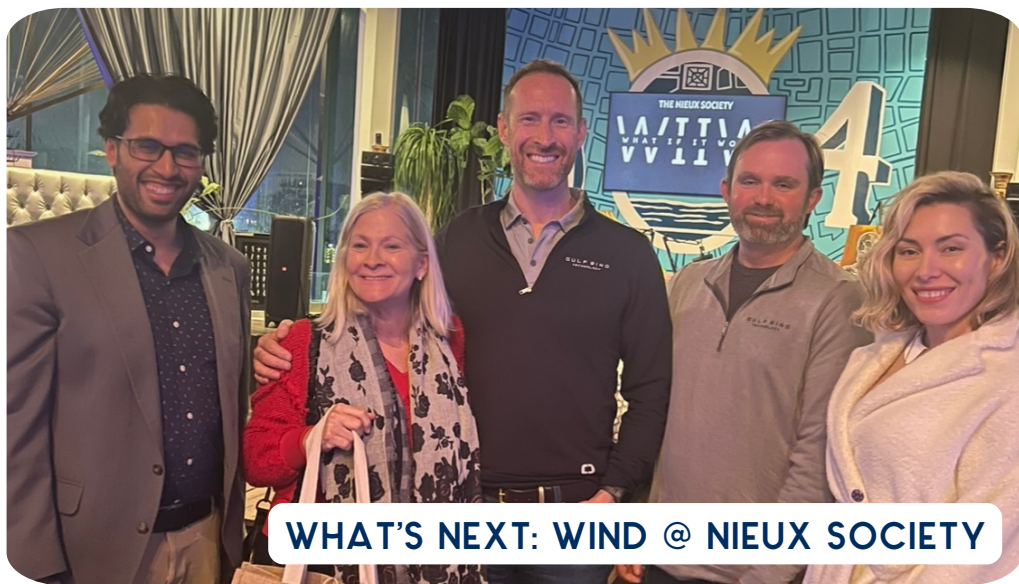
PRESERVATION RESOURCE CENTER



AXIOS: ENHANCING THE US POWER GRID



ENERGY TRANSITION MINI SUMMIT



WHAT'S NEXT: WIND @ NIEUX SOCIETY



ENERGY DAY AT THE CAPITOL



# STATE OF THE COAST





# ENCOURAGE PARTNERSHIPS



PORT FOURCHON VISIT



IDEA VILLAGE PITCH NIGHT



BLUE TECH SEMINAR



FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND SYMPOSIUM



NORBCC ANNUAL POLICY LUNCHEON



AURP CONFERENCE



# THE POWER OF PLAY



Playfulness can boost your physical health, help you cope with stress, and boost your overall well-being. The Beach at UNO recognizes the critical role of play in development and has been working to create an environment in which members of our community can come together and benefit from the power of play!



STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

DEVELOP A REAL ESTATE PROJECT THAT CATALYZES INNOVATION, COLLABORATION, NETWORK AND PLACEMAKING