**New Orleans Economic Development Ambassadorship Program - Spring 2018 Session Schedule**

*Spring 2018 classes will run Tuesday evenings May 15-June 26 from 5:30 – 8:00. Dinner is included.*

**Session 1: Business Retention & Attraction, Emerging Industries: Creative Digital Media, Food, Music & BioInnovation (Tuesday, May 15)**

Speakers: Louis David, Vice President of Industry Attraction & Retention; Bill Sabo, Director, Food, Music and Software Tech; Sally Lindsay, Manager, Business Development and Strategy (VFA Fellow)

Location: New Orleans Business Alliance, 935 Gravier Street, Suite 2020

**Session 2:** **Small Business Development (Tuesday, May 22)**

Speakers: Lynnette White-Colin, Vice President of Small Business Ecosystem Development; Wayne Encalarde Jr., Manager, Small Business Ecosystem Development, Small Business Owner

Location: Children’s Hospital of New Orleans, 200 Henry Clay Ave.

**Session 3: NOLABA, A New Model for Economic Development in New Orleans (Tuesday, May 29)**

Speakers: Quentin L. Messer, Jr., President & CEO; Ashleigh Gardere, Executive Vice President & COO

Location: The Shop at the CAC, 900 Camp Street

**Session 4: Strategic Neighborhood Development (Tuesday, June 5)**

Speaker: Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes, Director of Strategic Neighborhood Development

Location: Palmisano, 1730 Tchoupitoulas Street

**Session 5: Workforce Development + Talent Attraction & Retention (Tuesday, June 12)**

Speakers/panelists: Ashleigh Gardere, Executive Vice President & COO; Brandi Ebanks, Assistant Vice President of Talent Development; Monique Robinson, Director of Integrated Partnerships; Mary Matthews, Executive Director of 504ward; Thomas Krumins, Manager, Business Development and Strategy (VFA Fellow); Angela Cryer, Director of Integrated Partnerships

Location: Stone Pigman, 909 Poydras Street, Suite 3150

**Session 6: Performance Management: Measuring our Impact (Tuesday, June 19)**

Speaker: Alejandra Guzman, Vice President of Performance Management and Strategy

Location: TBA

**Session 7: Graduation Reception (Tuesday, June 26)**Location: TBA

**State of the New Orleans Economy with Incoming Mayor LaToya Cantrell (Friday, June 29, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.)**

Location: The Hyatt Regency, Grand Hyatt Ballroom, 601 Loyola Ave.

**Industry Asset/Enrichment Tours (Throughout program – participants should choose at least 1 to attend)**

Possibilities: Port of New Orleans, NORDC, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation Lighthouse Tour, Jung Hotel, New Orleans East, PRC tour of HI hostel on Canal Street, Airport, Michoud