

UNIVERSITY CONTINUING EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



Welcome to New Orleans, The Big Easy and the Crescent City. These nicknames capture New Orleans’ critical roles as both a cultural center and economic hub. We invite you to UCEA’s 93rd Annual Conference, “Inspiration, Creativity, Innovation *and all that jazz*,” where both aspects of New Orleans will be on display and interwoven into this exciting conference. We hope you’ll agree that this conference embodies the creativity, innovation and the spirit of renewal that is blossoming anew in the city of New Orleans.

We know only too well how quickly and dramatically our landscape can change. In continuing higher education, we must respond to a changing environment with agility and flexibility. We need to effectively scan community, national and international environments to develop programming that meets ever changing economic, educational, cultural and social needs.

As catalysts and conveners for change, we are most effective when we follow the “call and response” pattern of jazz to create new program interpretations that affect the communities we serve. As we invent the melody, harmony and even the time signature of our work, continuing higher education—like jazz—generates a dynamic synergy among audiences, performers, composers and critics that is more than learning. It is art.

It is most fitting that UCEA holds this conference with this theme in this location at this time. The cultural riches, sensual indulgences and unparalleled service that define the New Orleans experience continue to flourish, as they have for centuries. The most celebrated and historic core of the city is thriving. This conference, with its terrific location, takes advantage of these riches. Since Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, New Orleans has been the beneficiary of support from various groups in its rebuilding efforts. UCEA is no exception and has enthusiastically inaugurated a community service project, in cooperation with the New Orleans Recovery School District for March 24th and 25th, as an integral part of this year’s conference. We will have the opportunity to assist schools in the rehabilitation of libraries, playgrounds and assist with other school needs.

So, come. Be inspired. Get creative. Innovate. And enjoy the jazz.

Join us in this celebration of the human spirit and continuing higher education’s premier professional development opportunity.



Rich Novak
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UCEA President



Sharon Fross
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