



## Vision

To transform the LSU Construction Management Department into a nationally renowned School of Construction.

## Mission

Bert S. Turner Department of Construction Management Mission - To prepare our graduates with the ability to lead and problem-solve, to advance construction knowledge through research and scholarly activities, and to serve the communities through outreach...all in partnership with industry.

## Executive Summary for 2024

Unit Head 2024 Summary for the Bert S. Department of Construction Management - C.W. Berryman

The CM Department experienced record-setting growth in enrollments and academic productivity. Faculty submitted over \$14.4 million in sponsored research proposals, secured \$1.75 million in awards that helped support more than 50 PhD research graduate assistantships. Enrollment surpassed 1,900 students across all programs with the department. This generated 31% of the College of Engineering's annual student credit hours while graduating 24% of its students. Strategic goals are 87% on track, though challenges persist in student communication skill development and work-life balance initiatives. The department maintains one of the highest teaching and research productivity per faculty in the College prompting a continuing need for faculty and staff expansion. Major 2024 initiatives include developing a School of Construction Management and proposing new bachelor's degrees in Fire and Emergency Services Administration and Construction Engineering. While key objectives remain in progress, departmental growth reflects strong momentum and continued alignment with LSU's academic and research priorities.

### Current State of the Department

The growth of the Department and faculty success is my main focus. This is another historical year for teaching and research. Research collaboration across disciplines helped faculty to be successful in research funding. In the 2024 cycle, according to Budget and Planning, the 11 CM research faculty had \$14.44 million in sponsored research proposals, \$1.75 million sponsored program awards, and \$2.6 million in research expenditures. This research generated 70+ grants and helped fund 51 PhD graduate assistantships (includes PhD in ES). Fall 2024 Enrollments have increased to 1900+ enrolled students across all CM undergraduate and graduate programs.

The endowed chair's funding was used for research seed money or equipment purchasing. It has assisted in acquiring three federal centers:

- The US Department of Energy, refunded our Industrial Assessment Center (IAC). As a result of another competitive proposal, the scope has been expanded where we now have a Commercial Assessment Center (CAC). Their mission is to provide free assessments and improvement recommendations on energy efficiency, productivity, sustainability, and competitiveness to small and medium-sized enterprises; and to educate and train engineering students with applied energy and manufacturing-related skills. An additional bonus is the multitude of data that is being generated for research applications.
- A large consortium of universities led by LSU was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to establish a regional transportation research center. The Transportation Consortium of South-Central States, or Tran-SET, focuses on improving transportation infrastructure through the use of innovative materials and technology. It supports all phases of research, technology transfer, workforce development and outreach activities of emerging technologies that can solve transportation challenges in the region. This award-winning Center contract was extended from 5 years to 6 years and concluded August 2024.

Enrollments have increased from 1486 (2022-2023) to 1612 (2023-24) . Over the past four years there has been a 35% increase in enrollments. Some of this can be attributed to buying sponsorship and marketing activities that promote the CM degree programs. Like funds have been used to assist faculty as 17 faculty (10% of the total college faculty) generated 31,012 annual Credit Hours (CH) or 31% of the CoE's CH total. Also, the department graduated 389 students or 24% of CoE's annual degrees awarded.

Strategic Plan - the CM Department continues to make good progress towards its strategic goals as they are either at or above plan. We are at or above plan for 87% of the Department's objectives. Continuing from the last two cycles, three Objectives are below plan. The first is Objective 2.1.1 Enhance student's critical thinking and communication skills. It seems students are less involved in leadership roles and refuse to complete the Distinguished Communicator program. The other is Objective 4.3 Provide faculty, staff and students with the tools needed to maintain positive energy balance among work and life. The cause for this is due to a systems and operational survey that has yet to be developed. Each have action items identified to get these back on plan. Objective 2.2 Enhance global awareness and an international education experience among our students and Objective 2.4 Impart a strong sense of appreciation of and commitment to local and global community are on hold until more human resources are available to pursue these outreach programs.

#### **Key Issues/Concerns**

The faculty work load has increased significantly due to increased research grant funding and increased enrollments (based on 2024-2025 LSU Budget and Planning metric):

- Research expenditures per tenure/tenure track faculty: CoE- \$252,619 vs CM - \$269,152
- Majors per total Faculty: CoE –37.8 vs CM – 94.8
- Majors per T/TT Faculty - CoE – 48.9 vs CM – 146.5
- Student Credit Hours per Total Faculty: CoE – 588.5 vs CM – 1,824.2
- Degree per Total Faculty: CoE – 7.0 vs CM – 35.4

Even with low faculty numbers, on average, the Department has the highest teaching load in the college with some of the highest number of annual research dollars per faculty. This pace cannot be sustained without bringing in more faculty to assist with the teaching and research load. To date, the Department has been able to hire new faculty for almost every academic year...just can't hire fast enough. The Department is appreciative of the Dean's support when helping us add new faculty each year. To offload faculty workload, we hired additional staff for advising, counseling, and tech through the online revenues.

#### **Initiatives for 2024**

- Begin a search in Fall 2026 for new faculty
- Hire new faculty in 2025 (in progress; approved; anticipated completion date August 2025).
- Development of a School of Construction Management that can incorporate all academic programs and research centers (in progress)
- Create a departmental survey for systems and operational improvements (not started)
- Expand matriculation agreements with community colleges (in progress)
- Propose a new Bachelor of Science in Fire and Emergency Services Administration program (in progress)
- Propose a new Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering (in progress)

#### **Completed Initiatives for 2023**

- Begin the search for new faculty in 2024 (completed; hired Dr. Flavia Ioana Patrascu)