

DR. SAVOIE WINS LOUISIANA PATRON OF ARCHITECTURE AWARD

Dr. E. Joseph Savoie, President of the University of Louisiana-Lafayette (UL Lafayette), has been awarded the Patron of Architecture Award by the Louisiana Architectural Foundation. Prior to that he was Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education for the Louisiana Board of Regents.

The award was presented at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Louisiana Design Conference Awards Luncheon, held in Lafayette on September 28. The La. Patron of Architecture Award recognizes non-architect individuals, corporations, organizations and groups whose good works have encouraged, fostered or promoted public understanding and appreciation of quality in Louisiana architecture.

Savoie was recognized for his extensive work in leading development of a master plan for ULL, and for directing both major renovation and new housing projects on the campus. In addition, he mandated that the focus of projects be to protect historic structures and the significant live oak trees on campus.

He also championed a cooperative transfer of approximately 100 acres of property to the City of Lafayette so preservation of a vital piece of Lafayette could be maintained for all citizens as a green area in the heart of the city.

“Dr. Savoie fully understands the integration of proper planning,” said City-Parish President L.J. “Joey” Durel, Jr. “It is also evident that Dr. Savoie has a true appreciation for the preservation of historical architectural components.”

William Fenstermaker, CEO of Fenstermaker Engineers, Surveyors and Consultants, noted that Savoie integrated ULL's master plan with the master plan for the City of Lafayette to provide a unified, cohesive interrelationship, and worked with the city to preserve a "green area" vital to the heart of the city as a public park.

Local architect Steve Oubre said three significant buildings designed by renowned architect A. Hayes Town on the ULL campus were preserved and re-purposed thanks to Savoie's intervention. "He is certainly worthy of this worthwhile recognition and award," said Oubre.

The mission of the Louisiana Architectural Foundation is to work to advance architecture in Louisiana by serving as a link between the public and the architectural profession. This link includes public awareness of architecture, public support for architecture, and public participation in processes that shape the environment.

