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- Xavier University of Louisiana has continuously pushed the boundaries of education and societal progression through its mission to create a more just and humane society. As an institution located in the Gulf Coast region, climate change greatly impacts Xavier and its local community in many ways, including the threat of increased hurricane and tropical storm activity and disruptions to electrical power. Seeking a more sustainable future, Xavier is on the front lines tackling climate change through research and innovation, an effort furthered through the university's membership in the Louisiana Hubs for Energy Resilient Operations (HERO) collaboration. The Louisiana HERO collaboration was recently

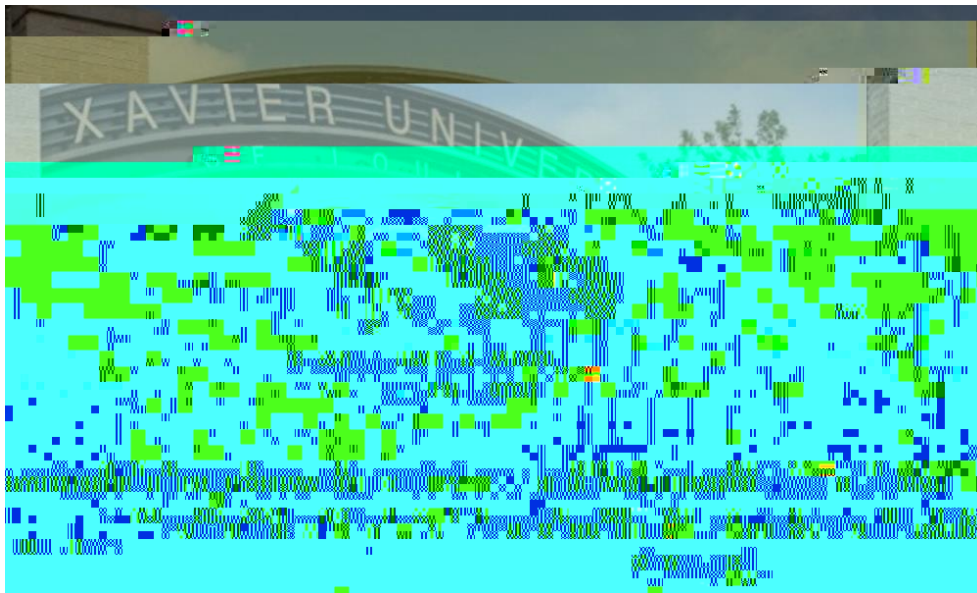
The university's project focuses on community/labor engagement, microgrid workforce development, and an integrated community energy planning process. Xavier's location in the regional south, familiarity with power grid failure due to increased storms and hurricanes, and insistence on contributing positively to society through research made it an ideal place to contribute to this ecological research initiative.

An integral part of the Louisiana HERO project is introducing and maintaining energy operations that contribute to a more resilient community. In the wake of climate change and the increased threat of hurricanes, the Gulf Coast will encounter challenges to its traditional power infrastructure that can have negative ramifications. Projects such as the one in which Xavier is a part are trying to shape the future of power grid technology and operations in this region. This grant will give the university the ability to create systems that can fortify Southern communities, helping to make resilient.

"This initiative leverages a multistakeholder coordination framework with a vision to tackling the energy security challenges faced by the state and to protect the residents of Louisiana from climate-related threats, keeping in mind the need to reduce its carbon footprint," said Dr. Goue.

Other organizations in the HERO collaborative include the Louisiana State Energy Office, Louisiana Public Service Commission, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Center for Planning Excellence, City of New Orleans, CLECO Power, Entergy Louisiana, Entergy New Orleans, NextGen Energy Partners, Southwestern Electric Power Company, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, The Accelerate Group, Together Louisiana, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

For more information about the GRIP award and a list of other projects, click [here](#).



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Xavier University, is ranked among the top three HBCUs (historically Black colleges and universities) in the nation. Recognized as a national leader in STEM and health sciences, Xavier produces more African American students who graduate from medical schools each year than any other HBCU. Xavier is also the largest producer of African American pharmacists in the country.

*Established in 1925 by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as a place for African Americans and Native Americans to receive quality education, Xavier has since expanded its programs in art,*