



"When Pollution Becomes Personal"

Presented by



MICA 6:8
MISSION

**Saturday, September 26, 2026
10 AM-5 PM
Registration begins at 9:15 AM**

**West Cal Event Center
Sulphur, Louisiana**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • FREE • LUNCH PROVIDED

EVENT SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 26 • West Cal Event Center

Time	Speaker	Session / Activity
9:30–10:15 AM		Registration
10:15–10:30 AM	Mayor Jacob Stutes	Welcome
10:30–11:00 AM	Cynthia Robertson, MSW — Founder & Executive Director, Micah 6:8 Mission	Announcement, Overview & Agenda
11:00–11:45 AM	Lt. General Russel Honoré (Ret.)	Keynote
11:45 AM–12:30 PM	Taco Bar & Snacks	Lunch Break
12:30–1:00 PM	Keysha R. Nabours, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, CVNP	Topic Session 1: Epigenetics
1:00–1:10 PM		Q&A
1:10–1:20 PM		Mapping Break 1
1:20–2:10 PM	Denise Trabbic-Pointer, CHMM Emeritus & Alexander Miele, M.S.	Topic Session 2: PFAS & Disinfectant Byproducts
2:10–2:20 PM		Q&A
2:20–2:30 PM		Mapping Break 2
2:30–3:10 PM	Vickie Boothe, MPH & Dr. Angelle Bradford Rosenberg	Topic Session 3: Breathing/Lung/Heart/Blood & Circulation Health
3:10–3:15 PM		Q&A
3:15–3:25 PM		Mapping Break 3
3:25–4:10 PM	Dr. Kimberly Terrell & Kaitlyn Joshua	Topic Session 4: Pregnancy, Children, Immune System & Hormones
4:10–4:20 PM		Q&A
4:20–4:30 PM		Mapping Break 4
4:30–5:00 PM	Cynthia Robertson, MSW	Closing: From Concern to Action

Epigenetics:

Exposures can affect gene expression, inflammation, development, and long-term disease risk.

PFAS & Disinfectant Byproducts:

Connecting water and chemical exposures to cancer concerns and immune/hormone effects.

Breathing, Lung, Heart, Blood & Circulation Health:

How air pollution, especially particulate matter, affects both lungs and cardiovascular health.

Pregnancy, Children, Immune System & Hormones:

Connecting pollution exposure to life-course and intergenerational health.



WELCOME TO THE SUMMIT

When Pollution Becomes Personal

Community Health, Environmental Justice & the Power to Act



**Elder Cynthia Parker
Robertson, MSW**

***Founder & Executive
Director***

Micah 6:8 Mission

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Welcome to Micah 6:8 Mission's 2026 Health & Environment Summit, When Pollution Becomes Personal. This gathering is for Southwest Louisiana residents and families who have questions about the air they breathe, the water they rely on, the illnesses they see around them, and what those experiences may mean for the future of our communities.

Our goal is to make complicated health and environmental information understandable, practical, and connected to real life. Throughout the day, we will hear from experts, ask questions, share community experiences, look for patterns, and talk about ways families can protect their health while communities work together for lasting change. We want people to leave with more knowledge, stronger connections, and clearer ways to stay involved.

Thank you for showing up, for bringing your questions, and for caring about the health of Southwest Louisiana. People and creation are precious to the Creator, and we have a responsibility to bring justice to all.

*In solidarity,
Elder Cynthia P. Robertson, MSW
Executive Director • Micah 6:8 Mission*



WELCOME TO SULPHUR

Mayor Jacob J. Stutes



Welcome to Sulphur — Community, Leadership & A Healthy Future

Mayor Jacob J. Stutes serves as the Mayor of Sulphur, Louisiana, where he took office in July 2026. His administration is focused on transparency, fiscal accountability, infrastructure, and improving communication between city government and the residents it serves.

A Southwest Louisiana native with a background in local service, community work, and funeral direction, Mayor Stutes brings a people-centered approach to public leadership. He is honored to welcome residents, advocates, health professionals, and environmental experts to Sulphur for the 2026 Health & Environment Summit.

"I believe local government works best when it's responsive, accountable, and focused on meeting the everyday needs of its residents. My administration is committed to building a city that families are proud to call home and businesses are proud to invest in."

HOW SULPHUR GOT ITS NAME

Sulphur's history begins underground. In 1867, sulfur was discovered beneath several hundred feet of unstable sand while people were searching for oil. Conventional mining methods failed because workers could not safely reach the deposit through the shifting sand.

In 1890, German chemist Herman Frasch developed an innovative method using pressurized hot water to melt the underground sulfur so it could be brought to the surface. The mining area became known as the "Fifty Richest Acres in the World."

Sulfur from the area was used in products including medicines, paint, pesticides, automobile tires, and gunpowder. As mining declined, petroleum and petrochemical industries became increasingly important to the region.

www.sulphurla.gov/646/Historic-Sulphur-Tour



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Lt. General Russel L. Honoré (Ret.)



Disaster Preparedness, Environmental Justice, Community Resilience & Community Power

Lt. General Russel L. Honoré (Ret.) will deliver the Summit keynote on disaster preparedness, environmental justice, community resilience, and the power communities must have to prepare for and respond to environmental and public-health challenges.

A globally recognized expert on disaster preparedness and a compassionate leader dedicated to community resilience and environmental justice, Honoré served 37 years in the U.S. Army and is widely known for commanding Joint Task Force Katrina following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Since retiring from military service, he has continued his work as a speaker, author, and advocate, empowering audiences to take proactive steps in crisis management and sustainable leadership.

"All people in the US and around the world have a human right to clean water and clean air."

A REGION SHAPED BY HURRICANES

For Southwest Louisiana, disaster preparedness is part of living history.

1957 — HURRICANE AUDREY

Hurricane Audrey devastated Southwest Louisiana, particularly Cameron Parish, and became a historic benchmark for hurricanes and storm surge along the Louisiana coast.

2005 — HURRICANE RITA

Rita reached Category 5 strength over the Gulf before making landfall in western Cameron Parish as a Category 3 hurricane. Storm surge of approximately 10 to 15 feet affected portions of the Southwest Louisiana coastline.

2020 — HURRICANE LAURA

Laura made landfall near Cameron as a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of 150 mph. Its eye and eyewall crossed the Lake Charles metropolitan area, including Lake Charles, Sulphur, Westlake, Moss Bluff, and DeQuincy.

2020 — HURRICANE DELTA

Only six weeks after Laura, Delta made landfall near Creole with 100 mph winds, about 12 miles east of Laura's landfall point, bringing another major disaster while communities were still recovering.

Reference Material:

National Weather Service — Hurricane Laura

<https://www.weather.gov/lch/2020Laura>

National Weather Service — Hurricane Rita

https://www.weather.gov/lch/rita_reportSW

National Weather Service — Hurricane Delta

<https://www.weather.gov/lch/2020delta>



FEATURED SPEAKER

Keysha R. Nabours, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, CVNP



Epigenetics — Environment, Lifestyle & Long-Term Health

Keysha R. Nabours will introduce Summit participants to epigenetics and explore connections between environment, lifestyle, and long-term health. Nabours is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner with more than 22 years of experience in healthcare, including primary care, urgent care, and cardiovascular medicine.

She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from McNeese State University, her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of South Alabama and completed post-master's education in cardiovascular nursing at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Keysha has a strong interest in preventive medicine, longevity, and the connection between environment, lifestyle, and long-term health. Her passion for helping people understand how everyday choices can influence health led to her interest in epigenetics.

"Let us better understand and improve the health of individuals, families, and communities in Southwest Louisiana."

WHAT IS EPIGENETICS?

Definition: Epigenetics is the study of changes that affect how genes work without changing the DNA sequence itself. These changes can influence whether particular genes are active.

Our genes are part of the story of our health, but they are not the whole story. The CDC explains that behaviors and environmental conditions can affect the way genes work through epigenetic processes. Epigenetic patterns also naturally change as we develop and age.

Environmental exposures, nutrition, physical activity, and other experiences can influence epigenetic processes throughout a person's lifetime. Scientists study these changes to better understand the complex relationship between our biology and the environments in which we live.

An epigenetic change is not the same thing as a genetic mutation and does not automatically mean someone will develop a disease. Genetics, exposures, behaviors, age, and many other factors can work together to influence health.

ASK YOURSELF:

Does your family have a history of a health condition that appears across multiple generations?

Reference Material:

CDC — Epigenetics, Health and Disease

<https://www.cdc.gov/genomics-and-health/epigenetics/index.html>



FEATURED SPEAKER

Denise Trabbic-Pointer, CHMM Emeritus



PFAS in the Louisiana Environment

Denise Trabbic-Pointer will help Summit participants better understand PFAS and how environmental exposures can affect people and communities. A Chemical Engineer with a BS and MS in Hazardous Materials Management, Trabbic-Pointer is a career environmental, health, and safety professional and a Certified Hazardous Material Manager Emeritus. She retired in January 2019 after 42 years with DuPont.

For more than 32 years, Trabbic-Pointer worked as an occupational health manager for a large chemical company, where she was responsible for assessing the potential for workplace exposures, measuring those exposures, analyzing the data, and proposing engineering and administrative controls to reduce them.

Her extensive experience evaluating how people can be exposed to chemicals brings an important occupational-health perspective to the Summit's discussion of PFAS and environmental health.

"The persistence and mobility of PFAS chemicals poses an incredible challenge for waste disposal."

WHAT ARE PFAS?

Definition: PFAS stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, a large group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products for decades. Many PFAS break down extremely slowly, allowing them to persist in people and the environment.

PFAS can be found in water, soil, air, food, workplaces, and some consumer products. Possible sources of exposure include contaminated drinking water, certain food packaging, household dust, industrial facilities, and some firefighting foams.

Research on certain PFAS has found associations with reproductive and developmental effects, reduced immune response, interference with natural hormones, increased cholesterol, and increased risk of certain cancers, including kidney and testicular cancer.

Not every PFAS has the same toxicity, and exposure does not automatically mean someone will become ill. Health risk depends on factors including the particular chemical, the amount of exposure, how exposure occurs, and how long it continues.

ASK YOURSELF:

Do you know whether PFAS have been tested for in the water you and your family drink?

Reference Material:

U.S. EPA — Human Health and Environmental Risks of PFAS

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas>



FEATURED SPEAKER

Alexander Miele, M.S.



Water Quality — Disinfectant Byproducts & Community Water Monitoring

Alexander Miele is the Water Resources & Testing Coordinator for The Water Collaborative of New Orleans. Before joining TWC, he worked at UL Lafayette and LSU on environmental monitoring projects involving harmful algal blooms in Lake Pontchartrain and oyster population sustainability along the Louisiana coast.

His career has included work with universities as well as state and federal government, bringing a range of environmental monitoring experience to his current community-focused role.

Now working in the nonprofit sector for the first time, Miele says he is excited to focus on actionable outcomes that can positively influence Louisiana communities. At the Health & Environment Summit, his expertise will contribute to the conversation around water quality and community understanding of the water systems and environmental conditions that affect Louisiana residents.

“We should shift focus on actionable outcomes that can positively influence Louisiana communities.”

WHAT ARE DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS?

Definition: Disinfection byproducts, or DBPs, are chemicals that can form when disinfectants used to treat drinking water react with naturally occurring organic material in the water.

Disinfecting drinking water is essential because it controls microorganisms that can cause serious illness. However, the treatment process can also create byproducts that public water systems must monitor and control. Two regulated groups are total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and halo acetic acids (HAA5).

EPA's drinking-water standards establish maximum contaminant levels for these compounds. Long-term exposure above federal limits is associated with potential health concerns, which is why water systems routinely monitor DBPs.

The goal is not to eliminate water disinfection. Instead, water systems must balance two important public health needs: protecting people from disease-causing microorganisms while limiting potentially harmful byproducts created during treatment.

ASK YOURSELF:

Have you ever looked at your community's annual drinking water quality report?

Reference Material:

U.S. EPA — National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations>



FEATURED SPEAKER

Vickie Boothe, MPH



Toxic Air Emissions, Fenceline Monitoring & Community Health

Vickie Boothe is an environmental engineer and epidemiologist with more than 33 years of public service at the Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Since relocating to New Orleans in 2019, she has provided scientific support to Louisiana frontline communities disproportionately impacted by decades of exposure to toxic petrochemical emissions.

Boothe's research focuses on the health impacts associated with industrial and motor vehicle air emissions, including fine particulate matter and air toxics, as well as the role social determinants such as poverty, housing, and social cohesion can play in health and health disparities.

Her work uses neighborhood-level measures of pollution exposure, social conditions, and health outcomes to help identify, monitor, and address geographic "hot spots" of health disparities, particularly in minority and low-income communities.

WHAT IS PARTICULATE MATTER?

Definition: Particulate matter, or PM, is a mixture of tiny solid particles and liquid droplets suspended in the air. PM_{2.5} refers to fine particles measuring 2.5 micrometers in diameter or smaller.

Particle pollution can come from many different sources, including combustion, vehicles, fires, industrial activity, construction, dust, and chemical reactions in the atmosphere. Because the smallest particles can travel deep into the lungs, scientists closely study their effects on human health.

Exposure to particle pollution has been associated with aggravated asthma, decreased lung function, coughing, and difficulty breathing, as well as cardiovascular effects. Children, older adults, and people with existing heart or lung conditions may be particularly vulnerable.

Air quality can vary by location, weather, season, and nearby sources. Understanding what is in the air—and when concentrations are elevated—can help residents make more informed decisions about their health.

ASK YOURSELF:

Have you noticed breathing problems becoming worse when there is smoke, dust, strong odors, or poor air quality?

Reference Material:

U.S. EPA — Health Effects of Particulate Matter

www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/health-and-environmental-effects-particulate-matter-pm



FEATURED SPEAKER

Dr. Angelle Bradford Rosenberg



Heart, Blood & Circulation — Environmental Health and the Cardiovascular System

Dr. Angelle Bradford Rosenberg will explore the heart, blood, and circulatory system and help connect cardiovascular health with environmental conditions and the public decisions that shape community well-being. Bradford Rosenberg is a formally trained cardiovascular physiologist and medical scientist with a Ph.D. from the Tulane School of Medicine and currently serves as a campaign strategist with Louisiana Progress.

Her civic and environmental work includes more than eight years on the Sierra Club Delta Chapter executive committee, leadership of its Transit Equity Team, development of the first Louisiana Transit and Planning Summit, youth organizing with HBCU students, and recognition as the Sierra Club's Emerging Changemaker of the Year in 2022.

Her professional bio captures the personal thread running through that work in three words: she is a “volunteer at heart,” combining scientific training with organizing, public service, and community care.

AIR POLLUTION & THE HEART

Definition: The cardiovascular system includes the heart and blood vessels responsible for circulating blood throughout the body. Environmental health research shows that air pollution is not only a respiratory concern—it can also affect cardiovascular health.

Fine particulate matter can trigger biological responses involving inflammation, oxidative stress, blood-vessel function, and the autonomic nervous system. These pathways help researchers understand how pollution inhaled into the lungs may have effects elsewhere in the body.

Studies have associated short- and long-term PM2.5 exposure with cardiovascular effects involving blood pressure, blood-vessel function, atherosclerosis, heart attacks, stroke, and heart failure.

Individual risk varies. Age, existing cardiovascular disease, the amount and duration of exposure, and other health and environmental factors can all influence how a person responds.

ASK YOURSELF:

Does heart disease, high blood pressure, or stroke run in your family?

Reference Material:

U.S. EPA — Particulate Matter Exposure & Cardiovascular Disease

<https://www.epa.gov/air-research/clinical-outcomes-related-particulate-matter-exposure-and-cardiovascular-disease>



FEATURED SPEAKER

Dr. Kimberly Terrell



Pregnancy, Children, Immune System & Hormones

Dr. Kimberly Terrell is a Research Scientist at the Environmental Integrity Project, a nonprofit environmental watchdog organization, where she provides technical support to communities impacted by heavy industry.

Her research focuses on racial disparities and health impacts associated with industrial pollution. In 2022, she published the first study to provide evidence that toxic air pollution contributes to Louisiana's high cancer burden.

Prior to joining the Environmental Integrity Project, Dr. Terrell was a research scientist at Tulane University's Environmental Law Clinic. She continues to pursue research focused on environmental justice and the effects of industrial pollution on Louisiana communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES & CANCER

Definition: Cancer is a group of diseases in which abnormal cells grow uncontrollably. Cancer develops through changes in genes that affect how cells function. Some genetic changes are inherited, some occur naturally over time, and others can result from environmental exposures that damage DNA.

Environmental cancer-causing exposures can be encountered in the air we breathe, water we drink, food we eat, workplaces, and other parts of our surroundings. Recognized environmental carcinogens include substances such as benzene, asbestos, arsenic, formaldehyde, certain forms of chromium, radon, and tobacco smoke.

Risk can depend on the substance, amount, duration and route of exposure, as well as genetics, age, behaviors, and other individual factors.

This distinction is important when communities look at local health patterns. Seeing multiple illnesses in a family, neighborhood, or geographic area can identify an important question that deserves investigation.

ASK YOURSELF:

Have you noticed patterns of cancer among your family, neighbors, or coworkers that have made you wonder why?

Reference Material:

National Cancer Institute — Cancer-Causing Substances in the Environment

[/www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/substances](https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/substances)



FEATURED SPEAKER

Kaitlyn Joshua



Pregnancy, Reproductive Health, Children & Families

Kaitlyn Joshua will bring the Summit's environmental-health conversation into the deeply personal areas of pregnancy, reproductive health, children, and family well-being, helping center what health policy and community conditions can mean in people's everyday lives.

A Baton Rouge-area advocate and Southern University graduate, Joshua has worked on voting rights, environmental issues, reproductive rights, and access to healthcare, and she became nationally known after sharing her own experience seeking miscarriage care in Louisiana. She has testified publicly and used that experience to advocate for clearer, safer systems of reproductive healthcare for patients and families.

Her advocacy is rooted in both policy and lived experience; describing the barriers she faced while seeking care, she said, "For me to have to navigate so many different channels to get health care should not be happening." Her story gives the Summit's theme, *When Pollution Becomes Personal*, a broader reminder that health systems and public policy become most meaningful when viewed through the lives of the people affected by them.

PREGNANCY, CHILDREN & ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES

Definition: An environmental exposure occurs when a person encounters something in the environment through breathing, eating, drinking, skin contact, or another pathway. Pregnancy, fetal development, infancy, and childhood include periods of rapid growth when the timing of exposure can be especially important.

Children are not simply smaller adults. They eat more food, drink more water, and breathe more air in proportion to their body weight than adults, while their organs and body systems are still developing.

Environmental exposures can occur through air, drinking water, food, soil, household dust, workplaces, and consumer products. Some stages of fetal and childhood development are considered critical windows when developing organs and systems may be particularly sensitive to certain environmental hazards.

Exposure does not automatically mean a child will experience a health effect. Scientists consider the substance involved, dose, timing, duration, route of exposure, and individual circumstances when evaluating potential risks.

ASK YOURSELF:

What environmental conditions in our community could be affecting the health of children as they grow and develop?

Reference Material:

U.S. EPA — Children's Unique Vulnerabilities to Environmental Hazards

<https://www.epa.gov/children/childrens-unique-vulnerabilities-environmental-hazards>



LEARN • ASK • MAP • ACT

1. Listen in plain language:

Speakers will connect science and environmental health information to real-life community experiences.

2. Ask questions:

Use the day to clarify what health concerns may look like, what environmental exposures mean, and where residents can find reliable information.

3. Map what people are noticing:

Calcasieu Parish residents can mark general areas where health concerns, symptoms, or environmental observations are being reported. No names or identifying information are required.

4. Leave with a next step:

The Summit is designed to move from information to practical household actions and changes communities can pursue together.

Three questions we will keep asking:

1. *What should we watch for our bodies and families?*
2. *What can we do at home, work, school, and in our neighborhoods?*
3. *What can we change together through policy, permits, public participation, organizing, and voting?*



COMMUNITY HEALTH MAPPING

Calcasieu Parish: What are people noticing?

Residents are invited to mark general areas where health concerns, symptoms, and environmental observations are being reported. The purpose is to help our community visualize patterns, identify questions, and better understand what our neighbors are experiencing across Calcasieu Parish.



Important: The map does not identify individuals and does not prove that a particular facility or pollution source caused an illness. It is a community tool for documenting reported patterns, identifying questions, and considering where additional research, monitoring, resources, or attention may be needed.



FROM CONCERN TO ACTION

The Summit is meant to help residents have practical ways to stay informed and involved.

- *Watch for changes in your health and keep notes when symptoms seem to line up with odors, smoke, flaring, heat, or other environmental events.*
- *Use trusted air- and water-quality information to make practical decisions for your household.*
- *Share concerns and observations without giving more personal information than you are comfortable sharing.*
- *Stay connected to community conversations, public-comment opportunities, health-story follow-up, and community monitoring.*
- *Use public meetings, permitting processes, organizing, and voting to push for systems that better protect health.*

Our Core Message

You did not cause this alone, and you cannot fix it alone — but there are things families can do to reduce exposure, protect health, document what is happening, and push systems to change.



STAY CONNECTED
LEARN.
ASK QUESTIONS.
SHARE YOUR STORY.
STAY CONNECTED.
TAKE ACTION.



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