

## **Note from our Conference Director, Dr. Cathy Denison-Robert**

**March 23, 2022**

It is my privilege and honor to welcome you to our 2022 Louisiana Disaster Recovery Conference: A Time of Hope and Renewal.

For over two years, we have all encountered what is probably the largest global disaster in our lifetime, the COVID-19 pandemic. In Louisiana, we have added numerous other disasters like hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and freezes to the list and some of us are barely hanging on. Many are very tired of dealing with it all and having to make so many changes in such a short period of time.

It is my goal that this conference truly serves as a time of Hope, Restoration, and Renewal. Whether you are a leader helping others, a service provider, are going through a tough crisis yourself, or are seeking education and assistance to keep moving forward, we are glad to have you spend this time with us.

We crafted the conference with a very distinct group of outstanding speakers to serve a unique, diverse audience that comes from all walks of life. Each speaker has been selected for a special purpose to tie all key components together in order to offer a comprehensive approach to disaster recovery programming and project implementation.

Although we have faced struggles and triumphs along the way, I am very grateful for the journey. I feel blessed and thrilled to see my vision become a reality on March 23, 2022, with everyone sharing and working together in our conference.

Please remember to serve others, even in your tough times, to be an encouragement and to ask for your own help when needed. It is my wish that everyone can have brighter days ahead as we try to move from just surviving to thriving. I trust that our conference might offer each of you the start to a brighter tomorrow.

This conference could not be possible without the LA Department of Revenue Nonprofit grant, our excellent coordination team, collaborators, and you, the participants. We appreciate your participation and support! In the future, please let us know how we might assist you.